Westminster & Pimlico News

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ALL THE MAGIC OF CHELSEA

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Westminster's Portland Place student Ashton Frank was given the opportunity to have a piece of art showcased at a national exhibition to complement fashion designer Vivienne Westwood's latest dress. The Fashion and Freedom Exhibition began in 2014 and is being held over five years at Manchester Art Gallery to commemorate World War One, correlating with the length of time the war ran. Ashton, 13, was asked to design a piece to work with Westwood's dress as she wanted it to be from a child's perspective, not a fashion designer's **SEE PAGE 4** Picture courtesy of Joel Fildes

Case for small business

IN the face of the toughest economic storm in modern history the Government has created an environment that has allowed small and medium-sized businesses to be established and flourish; however, it appears it hasn't been feeding SMEs from its own table as much as it could, *argues Charlie Mullins*

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Let's stay, says mayor

MAYOR Sadiq Khan is leading a City Hall push for Britain to remain in the EU, reversing the campaign of his predecessor Boris Johnson. Mr Khan called on Londoners to vote Stay in order to protect the more than 500,000 jobs in the capital that depend upon trade with Europe.

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'Give Met firepower to defeat terrorists'

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Met's firearms officers could be re-armed with SAS super-guns that fire up to 950 bullets a minute if police heed a former London counter-terrorism chief's call for their weapons to be dramatically upgraded to fully-automatic machine guns.

Ex-firearms officer Kevin Hurley is urging the Met to replace their current single-shot-only weapons with guns that could lay down a terrifying hail of fire in the event of a much-feared terror attack on the capital.

There are calls for Met firearms officers to be equipped with high performance automatic weapons

Mr Hurley, who headed the counter-terrorism unit at the City of London Police, says decision-makers "don't know what they're doing" by restricting armed officers to single-shot capability, which would be of little use up against heavily-armed terrorist murder gangs.

Following the attacks by Kalashnikov-firing ISIS terrorists on Paris and Mumbai, the former Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey wants the capital's cops to be armed with the sort of high-firepower guns used by the SAS and the US Navy Seals.

Although Mr Hurley admits that innocent members of the public could be killed in crossfire if the Met switches to fully-automatic machine guns, he argues that providing the means for much-heavier firepower

TURN TO PAGE 3

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WILL FAMOUS MAYFAIR MANSION BUCK THE TREND AND DEFY POSH PROPERTY SLUMP? PAGE 11

Subject to London Assembly backing, Sadiq Khan intends to appoint Val Shawcross CBE as Deputy Mayor for Transport and Deputy Chair of Transport for London

Mayor hopes to get London on track with key faces in top jobs

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan has announced key senior appointments to his top team, including deputy mayors for policing, transport and housing.

The five new senior advisors will drive forward the Mayor's pledges to make the capital a safer city, with a world-class transport network and affordable housing leading to shared prosperity for all Londoners.

Subject to London Assembly backing, Mayor Khan intends to appoint Val Shawcross CBE as Deputy Mayor for Transport and Deputy Chair of Transport for London. Ms Shawcross has extensive experience of all issues relating to London's transport, having served as a London Assembly member for 16 years, including eight years as chair and deputy chair of the London Assembly transport committee.

In addition, the Mayor has announced his intention to secure London's future transport needs by proposing the appointment of Lord Andrew Adonis as Chair of the Crossrail 2 Board. Lord Adonis brings a wealth of experience delivering major London and national transport projects. Lord Adonis will continue his role as chair of the National Infrastructure Commission.

New London Mayor Sadiq Khan has named five new senior advisors to drive forward his pledges to make the capital a safer city, with a world-class transport network and affordable housing

The Mayor intends to appoint Sophie Linden as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. Ms Linden is former government special adviser to Lord David Blunkett at the Home Office. She is currently Deputy Mayor of Hackney council with lead responsibility for crime and community safety, neighbourhood and civic engagement.

Mr Khan is also set to appoint Fiona Twycross as Chair, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. Ms Twycross, an Assembly Member since 2012, has first-hand knowledge of this brief, having served as vice-chair of LFEPA since July 2013.

Mr Khan is appointing James Murray to spearhead his ambitious housing programmes as Deputy Mayor for Housing. Mr Murray is currently the lead councillor for housing and development at Islington council, a role he has held since 2010, having first been elected in 2006.

Mayor Khan, said: "I'm delighted to announce these key appointments to my top team that brings together people with extensive experience and knowledge to help me deliver my manifesto for all Londoners.

"Val Shawcross has unrivalled knowledge of London's transport issues through her work over 16 years as a London Assembly member. I know this extensive experience makes her the right person to help deliver my plans for a modern, accessible and affordable transport network for everyone.

"As London grows, it is imperative that we plan now for the transport infrastructure London needs for the long-term. So I am delighted to announce my proposal to appoint Andrew Adonis as Chair of Crossrail 2. He will bring vital experience to help ensure Crossrail 2 gets off the ground and is delivered as quickly as possible.

"There is nothing more important than keeping London safe. So I'm pleased to have Sophie Linden and Fiona Twycross as part of my team. Both have extensive experience in their fields and will help to ensure our police and fire services have the resources they need to protect Londoners and safeguard our city.

"Housing is a top priority and I want all Londoners to be able to buy or rent a decent, affordable home. James Murray comes to City Hall with a strong track record of success, having championed the delivery of innovative housing solutions for years.

"I know he will be a huge asset as we work towards building the thousands of affordable housing London needs."

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YOURS FOR £15M: PAGE 11

Sadiq urges Londoners: 'vote to stay in Europe'

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is leading a City Hall push for Britain to remain in the EU, reversing the campaign of his predecessor Boris Johnson.

Mayor Khan called on Londoners to vote Stay in order to protect more than 500,000 jobs in the capital that depend upon trade with Europe and maintain the city's £12.5 billion in exports.

The Mayor set out the 'positive, patriotic and values based' case for London and the United Kingdom remaining in the European Union in his first intervention in the referendum debate since being elected.

Speaking to an audience of young Londoners and leading business experts at Second Home in Tech City, the Mayor argued that the capital and the United Kingdom are stronger, safer and better off in the EU, but particularly emphasised the emotional argument for remaining in the EU.

Mr Khan declared: "Throughout our history, Britain has always been open to the world. Always looking outwards and trying to learn from others. It is our open attitude that helped to build our country. It's why London became the great city it is today. It's why we attract the best and the brightest from around the world to make their home here.

"We wouldn't be where we are today in London with an isolationist approach. We know from our experience that the answer is to get more involved, to form more alliances and actively to shape our future in the world. That is the British way. That is certainly the London way."

During the speech, the Mayor made an impassioned plea to young Londoners to make sure they have their say on June 23.

He said: "The way we live now is the product of our long history and decisions made by the generations that came before us. It's thanks to the choices they made that we can live and prosper in the successful country and capital city we have today. Now it's our turn to do the same. Our generation now has one of those big decisions to make."

The Mayor's spokeswoman said 542,000 jobs in London were linked to trade with the EU in 2011 according to figures from the Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR).

"The sectors that are most dependent on the EU are finance and insurance (85,000 jobs), business administration and support, 83,000 jobs, and manufacturing, 78,500 jobs. In addition, goods exports from London to the EU are worth £12.5 billion," said the spokeswoman.

"London also benefits through receiving hundreds of millions of pounds of EU funding, which supports regional development, provides investment in businesses, creates job opportunities, and improves prospects for young people through apprenticeships and higher education."

Catering and hospitality students celebrate success. They are, left to right: Vendryes Johnson, Lucy Smith, Alex Yates, Alice Caple and Lewis Fredrick

College celebrates redevelopment

THE official opening of Westminster Kingsway College's redesigned Victoria Centre took place on Monday, May 23.

The event was led by Andy Wilson, designated chief executive of Central London Colleges Group, who introduced past and present students to unveil a plaque, marking the launch of the new building.

As a founding partner in the Central London Colleges Group, Westminster Kingsway College has been bold and ambitious in its approach to redesigning one of its key learning facilities.

Real work environments run throughout the building, including new conference suites, three College restaurants and pop up retail shops. The innovative new building provides a stimulating learning environment both in and outside the classroom.

The redevelopment of the Victoria Centre has been supported by a grant as well as the College's own reserves, with the newly renovated teaching facility being delivered at a time when the importance of FE colleges has never been clearer.

Mr Wilson said: "We have been planning the redevelopment of our Victoria Centre for over 10 years. We knew we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a landmark facility for hospitality, business and enterprise in the very heart of London."

Pictured left to right, Andy Wilson, designated chief executive of Central London Colleges Group, with alumni Kirsty Allen and Florence Ball

Cancer linked to economic crisis

THE economic crisis in Europe led to almost 170,000 extra cancer deaths across the EU, according to a study conducted by scientists in London.

Unemployment and reduced public sector health spending following the 2008 crash were linked to increased mortality from the disease, they say.

In the first global analysis of its kind the study reveals that 260,000 died from cancer worldwide and suggests universal health care coverage could protect patients in the future.

Dr Mahiben Maruthappu, of Imperial College London, said: "Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide so understanding how economic changes affect cancer survival is crucial. We found increased unemployment was associated with increased cancer mortality but that universal health coverage protected against these effects. This was especially the case for treatable cancers including breast, prostate and colorectal cancer."

The study, published in *The Lancet*, used data from the World Bank and World Health Organisation on unemployment, public health care spending and cancer mortality in over 70 countries – representing over two billion people. It looked at trends from 1990 to 2010 and found the recent economic crisis was associated with over 260,000 additional cancer deaths in countries within the Organisation for Economic Development.

Dr Maruthappu said: "We also found public healthcare spending was tightly associated with cancer mortality – suggesting healthcare cuts could cost lives."

Several cancers were included in the analysis: colorectal and lung cancer along with prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women.

Bus accident

A 73-year-old woman was badly hurt after being hit by a number 73 bus.

The pensioner suffered head injuries from the collision with the double decker bus, and was being treated in hospital. Her condition was described as 'critical'.

The woman was injured on Britain's busiest shopping street, Oxford Street, in central London last Tuesday afternoon, the second serious bus crash on the road in less than 24 hours.

Just 150 yards from the scene, an 83-year-old man was hit by a number 159 bus and critically injured last Monday afternoon.

Police, paramedics and London's Air Ambulance attended the scene. Detectives from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit are carrying out enquiries, and are appealing for anyone who was in the area at the time of the collision to contact them.

Officer charged

A SERVING police officer has been charged with six child sex offences.

PC Alistair Leiper is accused of trying to make indecent images of children as well as trying to get a child to take part in a sex act.

The 36-year-old Met Police officer is charged with one count of making indecent images of children, one count of attempting to cause a child to engage in penetrative activity and four counts of attempting to cause a child to watch a sexual act.

He was suspended from duty when he was arrested on August 27 last year and was based in the Westminster borough.

Leiper will appear on bail at Westminster Magistrates' Court on June 16.

Call to give firearms police automatic weapons

FROM PAGE 1

could save many more lives.

As London's terror alert now approaches its second year of standing at "severe" and security chiefs admit that a terror attack is highly likely, the call has come for the Met to be armed with much more fearsome weapons.

At present, the Met's 2,200 armed officers are believed to be equipped with the Glock 17 pistol with a magazine of 17 bullets and the Heckler & Koch MP5SF machine pistol – SF stands for single fire.

But if Mr Hurley's recommendations are taken up, the Met could be armed with guns like:

- The Heckler & Koch MP7, as used by the SAS and US Navy Seals, a small, low-recoil sub machine gun capable of firing 950 rounds per minute
- The FN P90, as used by the US Secret Service, highly-accurate up to 2,000 metres with a 50-round magazine and capable of 900 rounds per minute.
- The Sig Saur MPX, a machine pistol with an 850 rpm and described by the manufacturers as "of unequalled reliability".

Mr Hurley launched his call for police to be given "the right weapons" in an interview with the BBC's *File On Four*.

He said: "The only way you can take on people with automatic fire weapons is to put back more ammunition going in the opposite direction to them. The military call it 'win the fire fight', so you win the fire fight to close them down, stop their freedom of action and then you neutralise them, or kill them, frankly.

"Our police officers at the moment in armed response vehicles are armed with top quality rifles that have been deliberately down-graded from firing automatically to only fire a single shot.

"This is a flawed philosophy based on the fact that police officers only used to need to fire a single aimed shot or shots in siege-type situations with armed robbers. But we're talking now about murder gangs armed with machine gun-type weapons that you've got to stop immediately otherwise you yourself will be killed.

"The National Police Chiefs Council says the weaponry has been very carefully considered and evaluated and they do not feel that automatic weapons are appropriate and that there is a danger with automatic weapons that you could hit innocent people as well as the intended target.

"The only thing they are right about there is the danger of automatic weapons, that you can hit an innocent person."

Mr Hurley, who served with the Parachute Regiment, added: "I have been at the other end of machine gun fire on a number of occasions and it is not very nice, you keep your head down.

"It shows you that the decision makers at the highest level of police firearms policy don't know what they're doing. If a policeman can spray bullets back, yes he may well hit five or six innocent members of the public, and kill them, but he will enable his colleagues to go forward and kill the terrorists and save another 95 or 100 people."

The National Police Chiefs Council said it was "satisfied with the weaponry available" but added that "the issue remains under constant review".

National exposure for schoolboy's art

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

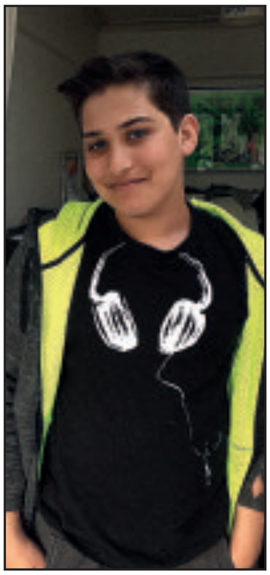
PORTLAND Place pupil Ashton Frank has been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a piece of work showcased at a national exhibition to complement fashion designer Vivienne Westwood's latest dress.

The Fashion and Freedom Exhibition began in 2014 and is being held over five years at Manchester Art Gallery to commemorate the First World War, correlating with the length of time the war ran.

Ashton, 13, was asked to design a piece to complement Westwood's dress as she wanted it to be from a child's perspective, not a fashion designer's.

Ashton designed a gun to accessorise the dress and was able to create it at Portland Place School with the help of his design and technology teacher Parwez Soogund. He designed the gun plate using facilities such as the 2D scanner at Portland Place School.

The gun and dress were designed to reflect the Suffragettes during the First World War, when women replaced men to work in factories and on the roads while they were away at war. It proved



Talented Ashton Frank has had a piece of art put on display in a national exhibition

women were capable of other jobs, not just domestic-focused work, and released them from the traditional restrictive clothing they were expected to wear.

Ashton said: "I felt honoured to be part of this project and it was nerve wracking to know that I was creating a piece for Vivienne Westwood. I really hope I made her happy with the outcome and I feel grateful to have been asked to design a piece for this important exhibition."

Ashton's mum, Janice Frank, said: "Ashton is passionate about history and passionate about guns so this was a perfect opportunity for him. It was great that Portland Place supported him and helped him design such an incredible war time accessory."

Mr Soogund said: "Ashton is a creative young man who has an innate passion for design and technology. He has an eye for innovation and problem solving.

"Three years ago, the first time I met Ashton, his eyes were full of excitement as he walked into the workshop. He was eager to use the tools and machinery and has continued to learn and develop his skills with dedication.

"He has previously won competitions on World Book Day with his homemade costumes. Ashton inspires the younger students at Portland Place School and contributes well to the after-school club.

"I seize this opportunity to congratulate Ashton and hope it will be the first of many opportunities to display his fine work."

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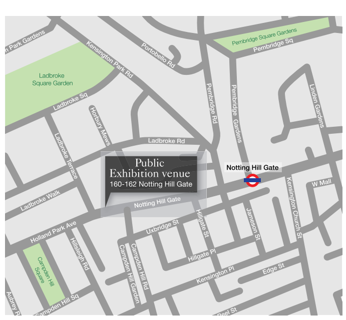

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Low levels of toxic air 'can be deadly'

EVEN small amounts of air pollution, below recommended guidelines, cause heart attacks and strokes by clogging the arteries, according to new research.

Traffic and factory fumes have long been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease but the reason has remained a mystery.

Now, a ten-year study of more than 6,000 people across the US shows pollution increases the rate of build up of plaque in the arteries leading to clots and, in some cases, death. And this can happen at levels below regulatory guidelines.

Recent studies show that London is one of the most polluted cities in Europe. In the first week of this year parts of the capital broke annual limits for levels of nitrous dioxide.

Professor Joel Kaufman, of the University of Washington, Seattle, said: "The study provides important new information on how pollution affects the main biological process that leads to heart disease. The evidence supports worldwide efforts to reduce exposures to ambient air pollutants."

He added: "This was the most in-depth study of air pollution exposures ever applied to a large study group specifically designed to examine influences on cardiovascular health."

In the study air monitors were deployed in more than 1,500 locations within cities in six different states.

Calcium deposits were measured in the participants' arteries by using CT scans. They also assessed each person's exposure to pollution based on their home address.

Those living in areas with more outdoor pollution, even at lower levels common in the US, accumulated deposits faster than do people living in less polluted areas, reports *The Lancet*.

Previous research has shown associations between particulate matter spewed into the air by vehicles and industrial plants and heart disease. But it has been unclear how this leads to diseases of the cardiovascular system.

The study found for every five µg/m3 higher concentration of particulate matter (PM2.5), the difference between more and less polluted areas of a US city, individuals had about a 20 per cent acceleration in the rate of calcium deposits.

Train reaction

THE number of days being taken off sick by train conductors has doubled since they started strike action – to stop them having to do more work.

New figures, released by the company Govia Thameslink Railway, show 83 services are being cancelled on a daily basis as a result of sickness. And Southern Rail conductors have taken over 1,000 days of sickness in just one month. The company say passengers have a right to know why their trains are being cancelled.

Conductors have been striking against a new on-board supervisor role and plans for drivers to operate doors. The operator has insisted there will be no job losses or pay cuts.

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!

Ministers, small is still beautiful

IN the face of the toughest economic storm in modern history the Government has created an environment that has allowed small and medium-sized businesses to be established and flourish; however, it appears it hasn't been feeding SMEs from its own table as much as it could.

In recent years the number of SMEs has skyrocketed to record levels. At the start of last year there were 5.4 million private sector businesses – 1.9 million more since 2000 – of which 99.9 per cent were small and medium-sized enterprises.

This is a fantastic achievement for a country that was ravaged by recession and, in some quarters, is still feeling aftershocks of the economic earthquake unleashed on the world in 2008.

Government should rightly take a decent wedge of credit for this growth, in particular the Chancellor, George Osborne, who peppered Budget after Budget with measures and incentives aimed at helping SMEs.

One area, though, that the Government appears to have not delivered upon is the amount of work that its own departments have given to small and medium-sized businesses.

A report last week from the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee was critical of central government procurement, with the body not convinced SMEs were winning more work.

UK government procures £45 billion of goods and services from non-public sector organisations. It set a target in 2010 to ensure 25 per cent of government procurement spending went to SMEs.

That target was, in fact, breached in 2014-15, with more than 26 per cent going to small firms, which in pounds and pence equates to about £12 billion.

Unfortunately, according to the parliamentary committee, the momentum has been lost, making it really hard for the Government to be able to reach its next target of 33 percent by 2020.

A number of initiatives put in place to encourage SMEs to bid for contracts have fallen by the wayside, including something snappily called the Investment and Contract Readiness Fund, which was started in 2012 but closed down in March 2015.

That aside, one of the main challenges for SMEs wanting to earn a few quid from Government contracts is the mountain of red tape they have to scale.

This includes complicated and time-consuming pre-qualification questionnaires that have to be completed before a tender is even submitted.

Add to this the issues around slow payment and a lack of awareness of the opportunities, it's not difficult to see why SMEs are not securing the level of work from government they have the capabilities and expertise to deliver.

Ironically, as the growth in UK SMEs has proven, the Government places a considerable amount of importance on Britain's backbone of small businesses. After all, SMEs employ 15.6 million people and generate a combined annual turnover of £1.8 trillion.

This is achieved through creativity, innovation, competitiveness and that 'x-factor' gene possessed by the UK's army of entrepreneurs, which drives successful enterprises forward.

Taking all this into consideration, why then would an organisation that has to find £13 billion worth of departmental savings not take better advantage of what UK SMEs have to offer through better engagement and simpler procurement methods?

Perhaps when the Government reports back to the committee in March next year the commitment to SMEs, which the Chancellor is so proud of, coupled with the challenge he has set to government departments of delivering more sustainable operations, will filter down to its procurement activities and make better use of the talent and abilities SMEs bring to the party.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper

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Eleanor: bid for legal review rejected

BY LWN REPORTER
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THE father of a west London woman who killed herself after being accused of making a false rape claim says he will continue his legal battle despite a judicial review into her death being refused.

Eleanor de Freitas, 23, was found dead in April 2014 just days before she was due give evidence at trial.

Eleanor's father, David, has sought a judicial review to open a new inquest to examine the handling of the case by prosecutors in the run-up to her death.

However, at the High Court last Tuesday, two high court judges refused the application for a judicial review.

Miss de Freitas, who had bi-polar disorder, originally claimed she had been raped by Alexander Economou, but her case was dropped due to insufficient evidence.

Mr Economou then brought a private prosecution against Miss de Freitas, from Fulham, alleging she had perverted the course of justice, which was then taken up by the Crown Prosecution Service.

An inquest last year concluded she committed suicide and that her upcoming trial had been a "stressor" in the days before her death.

However, the coroner, Chinyere Inyama, did not call the CPS to give evidence into its decision to take over the private prosecution and its handling of the case.

During the hearing Leslie Thomas, QC, for Mr de Freitas, argued that the coroner failed to investigate any possible failings by the CPS and the impact they had on Miss de Freitas.

He argued the relevant facts had to be examined fully for the coroner to come to a conclusion, including the CPS handling of the prosecution case against Miss de Freitas.

Eleanor de Freitas, above, who had bi-polar disorder, originally claimed she had been raped by Alexander Economou, left, but her case was dropped due to insufficient evidence

Mr Thomas QC said: "We say that the coroner who was the public official, he was both judicial official and fact finder, failed in his duty to conduct a full, proper and fearless investigation."

He said the fact the coroner concluded the "impending court hearing was clearly a significant stressor in her life at the time", showed the CPS's actions needed to be investigated.

However, Johnathan Hough QC, representing the HM Coroner for West London, said expanding the remit of the inquest would not have helped answer the coroner's key questions.

He said: "In the inquest he (the coroner) considered the immediate circumstances about her death. He then went a step further and considered her motivation, and took another step further in considering her mental health background.

"He decided not to investigate the decision to prosecute made seven months earlier. That would have led to a collateral and controversial inquiry that would not helped him reach his conclusion."

In his decision Mr Justice Nicol said: "None of the grounds advanced by the claimant are reasonable and this application is thereby refused. Eleanor's death was a tragedy and nothing can alter that. Mr Justice Holroyde (who previously examined the application) said he had every sympathy with the claimant, her father, and I do too.

"But in my view the inquest into her death was lawfully conducted."

Lord Justice Gross agreed with the statement and said: "The court has the greatest sympathies for the family.

"This death was a tragedy but no good purpose would be served by permitting this case to go any further when it is bound to fail."

Speaking outside court Mr de Freitas, 62, said: "We are disappointed with the decision.

"I believe we have shown that there are questions that still need to be answered regarding CPS conduct and decision making in this case.

"Apparently there is no forum for doing that. I was bolstered by the numerous letters of support received from organisations supporting claimants in rape cases.

"They share our concerns about the wider public interest issues raised by the circumstances of Eleanor's death and share my desire for a full inquiry and lessons to be learnt.

"We will continue to explore other avenues."

Asked what those avenues might be, his solicitor Harriet Wistrich said they were considering applying to the Attorney General to examine the case.

Auctioneer fined after ivory tusk sale breached the rules

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A LEADING auctioneer has been fined for breaching international law by selling ivory.

Famous auction house Christie's admitted selling elephant ivory in contravention of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

A representative for the vendors, based in south Kensington, was ordered to pay a £3,250 fine at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court last Monday. The item is an ivory tusk mounted on silver which was offered for sale on April 28, 2015 in a Christie's auction with a guide price of £1,200 – £1,800 – without the necessary paperwork.

PC Rowena Roberts, wildlife officer for Kensington and Chelsea borough said: "Anyone who owns antique ivory should be aware that it cannot be legally sold without an Article 10 certificate which can be obtained via the Animal and Plants Health Agency.

"The tusk in this case was mounted on silver but was basically a raw, unmodified elephant tusk and therefore should not have been offered for sale without the correct documentation.

"These laws were established to protect the world's remaining elephants."

The 63-year-old owner of the piece of unworked ivory has been charged with offering it for sale.

Christie's failed to apologise after getting caught trying to sell illegal ivory, but they felt it was "honourable" for them to plead guilty.

Following the case a spokesman said: "Christie's unequivocally condemns the slaughter of elephants for illegal ivory and will not sell modern ivory, or unworked tusks of any age.

"We take the obligations in relation to endangered species very seriously.

"Our ongoing responsibility is to ensure that illegal ivory cannot be sold at Christie's, and as part of this we have a robust training programme in place that is regularly reviewed. This was an isolated incident and we believe that the honourable response was to accept the charge as made."

Charlotte's dream job is bags of fun

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A FORMER model has landed her dream job – buying and testing luxury handbags.

Known as the Handbag Hunter, Charlotte Staerck tracks down luxury bags and checks them over to make sure they are real.

The former model is responsible for sourcing rare, vintage and pre-loved handbags from the world's most famous designers.

The 26-year-old blonde has tracked down unique second-hand finds from the likes of Chanel, Hermés, Mulberry, Gucci and Louis Vuitton.

Once sourced, Charlotte checks the bags are real and makes sure every detail is correct, before selling them on to their high-end clients.

She said: "I love it, every day is different. The products are really high end, I'm handling thousands of pounds worth of handbag so I have to double check their authenticity.

"Brands can be quite different, some of the fakes out there can be really good.

"Each brand has different ways to make sure they put their mark on it and to make sure it is real. So I have to know how many stiches per inch is on a Chanel bag, how the stitching in 1986 was made and the special Louis Vuitton code. I have to have all the knowledge and carry out the research.

"I've been obsessed with bags since forever so I already had a lot of knowledge, but this is now the next level.

"This is absolutely my dream job. I did a pageant when I was 19 and was asked what my dream job would be and I said a fashion buyer, when at the time I was nowhere near being in this job."

The Handbag Clinic started with a Chelsea store in west London and now has a shop in Islington, north London, as well as Newcastle, with a fourth planned to open in Leeds later this year.

Charlotte began working as a purchasing manager in November last year after working as a model exhibiting lingerie and wedding dresses for for glossy magazines and Tallulah Love lingerie.

But says she loves finding rare and unique fashion statements for her customers.

The beauty said: "My absolutely favourite bag is a python skin Celine phantom blue – it has its own rain coat to cover it. It sold out within a couple of hours when it first arrived. I've never seen anybody walking around on the street with one, it's quite a special bag."

This particular bag is valued at around £2,995 and Charlotte stocks many others that are of a similar value.

She added: "Women's fashion changes so much you have got to be ridiculously wealthy to afford to keep up, but handbags are timeless and will even go up in value.

"They are the first thing you see when a woman walks towards you, they are a statement and can go with any outfit – it's a very personal item.

"When you know the detail it makes it so much more special. I would recommend anybody to look into handbags and find out what makes them individual.

The Handbag Clinic has had famous customers such as Jane Percy, the Duchess of Northumberland, Tamara Ecclestone, daughter of F1 mogul Bernie, model and *Big Brother* star Imogen Thomas, reality TV's Stephanie Pratt from *The Hills* and *Made in Chelsea*.

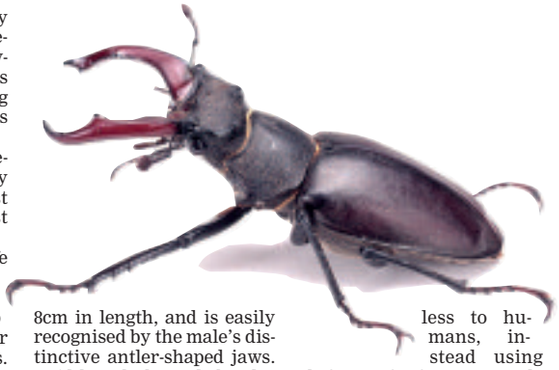
'Handbag Hunter' Charlotte Staerck tracks down luxury bags and checks them over to make sure they are real Picture: SWNS

London on alert to help stag beetle's battle for survival

A LEADING animal charity is urging Londoners to report sightings of the globally-endangered stag beetle, as populations of the giant bug are in steep decline across Europe.

Despite this, London remains a hotspot for the shiny creatures, which are most common in the south east and south west of the city.

Now the London Wildlife Trust is asking members of the public to report their sightings, which will help researchers map their whereabouts and numbers.



The stag beetle is Britain's largest land beetle, almost 8cm in length, and is easily recognised by the male's distinctive antler-shaped jaws.

Although the male beetles look fearsome they are harmless to humans, instead using their massive jaws to wrestle with other males when looking for a mate. The creepy crawlies have been recorded in most London boroughs, but are particularly common in areas from Bexley, Lewisham and Southwark to Wimbledon, Richmond and Uxbridge.

Three sites, Epping Forest, Richmond Park and Wimbledon and Putney commons, are European Special Areas for Conservation for stag beetles.

Researchers still don't know why there have been relatively fewer sightings across north and east London, which is why people's sightings are so important.

May is the start of the 'stag beetle season', which lasts until late July, although a cold spring can delay emergence.

The decline in stag beetle numbers is attributed to the tidying up of parks, gardens and green spaces and the removal of tree stumps and dead wood - where beetle larvae grow.

The elusive creatures may also be inadvertently destroyed in the mistaken belief they are pests and in urban areas traffic, cats and people walking around can also have a negative impact on population levels.

Londoners love coffee

LONDON'S streets are getting clogged up with an astonishing 20 times more takeaway coffee shops than there were 20 years ago, new figures show.

Caffeine-loving Brits now drink a whopping 70 million cups of coffee daily, which has lead to the astronomical rise in the number of takeaway chain coffee shops.

According to commercial real estate firm CBRE, there were only 215 takeaway chain coffee shops in the UK in 1998, but now there are more than 4300 stores like Nero, Costa and Starbucks.

According to Muriel Illig, from Food Service UK, there are 70 million cups of coffee drunk daily in the United Kingdom.

Starbucks spokesperson, Ian Cranna said: "The CBRE report out shows how people in the UK want to discover and learn more about coffee, which absolutely echoes the trends we've seen in Starbucks stores.

"We've found customers are more interested than ever in where we source our coffee."

According to Starbucks, there has been an increased interest from consumers about the coffee provided at these outlets.

Ian added: "We've found customers are more interested than ever in where we source our coffee.

"More people are opting to try our Origin Espressos, sourced from single countries, for example, as an alternative to our traditional Espresso Roast and to experiment with coffee flavours from around the world."

It comes as it has been reported that the managing director of Costa Coffee, Jason Cotta, will allegedly spend £40 million on a new roasting plant to help meet demand.

'Dumped' at wrong station

ANGRY commuters were left scratching their heads after being told to get off a train at the wrong station – to "ease congestion".

Hundreds of travellers on the 7.52am service from Epsom, Surrey, to London Waterloo were told halfway through their journey that it would be terminated at Raynes Park – 11 miles from their destination.

There the passengers were told to get off and had to wait for the next train – because the railway line was too congested, according to the tannoy system.

Fiona Scarlett, 43, was unable to get on the next two trains passing through because of the sheer volume of people trying to continue their journey – and was subsequently late for work.

She said: "It caused chaos as our train was packed, and the platform was jammed. Raynes Park platforms aren't the widest.

"I assume it was relating to the signalling problems at Waterloo, but it's madness to dump a whole train of people like that.

"I managed to get on the third train that came through the station, and that one took the last people from my train.

"That train was pretty packed, but at least everyone got on it."

A spokesman for South West trains confirmed the train was terminated to reduce congestion caused by a points failure outside Waterloo.

All lines at Waterloo were reopened shortly after 10am.

Kapow! Graham stuns comic giants

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A LONE London businessman has beaten Batman, Superman and Spiderman over the legal right to use the word 'superhero' in the title of his book.

Graham Jules was about to publish his self-help manual *Business Zero to Superhero* in 2014 when he got a letter from Marvel and DC Comics claiming the word infringed their jointly-owned trademark.

But modest Mr Jules, from Wood Green, fought back and even rejected an offer of 'a couple of thousand' to change his book title.

And now, after a two-and-a-half-year wrangle, the multi-billion dollar enterprises have backed down and admitted defeat with the north London entrepreneur.

Four days before a planned hearing at the Intellectual Property Office in London they dropped the case against their British foe "for commercial reasons".

> "I was on the verge of scrapping the book and at the beginning I felt helpless and scared
>
> **Graham Jules**

Defiant London businessman Graham Jules with his book, *Business Zero to Superhero* Picture: SWNS

Mr Jules, 48, who runs a firm setting up pop-up shops – and is also studying law – can keep the title of his book and finally publish it.

He compiled his entire case without legal aid using a single textbook about intellectual property law – while his giant adversaries armed themselves with the finest legal minds.

Mr Jules estimates he spent a total of just £200 – the cost of registering to fight the claim – plus 200 hours in writing letters.

He said: "I was in the process of writing a book for entrepreneurs and as part of that process I applied to trademark the title.

"I received a letter from Marvel and DC's solicitors stating that they opposed the title. I found out that they had held the trademark for 'superheroes' and from that moment on the battle ensued.

"I was on the verge of scrapping the book and at the beginning I felt helpless and scared. But this is an amazing result. It shows that even the little guy can achieve something with determination."

New York-based Marvel and DC Comics, of California, jointly trademarked the word 'superhero' in 1979 in a bid to stop others from using it.

The two companies, which are usually fierce rivals, have since been accused of picking on small businesses who include the term in their branding.

Mr Jules said he was also fighting a wider battle on behalf of others.

He argued that the 'superhero' word has become part of everyday language and should be free for all to use.

He added: "I realised that many other small publishers had had the same experience as myself with Marvel and DC. It seemed unfair to me that they have a monopoly on the word. But I didn't have the resources to get full legal representation so I represented myself.

"At first, there was a negotiations stage where they offered to pay me a couple of thousand pounds to change the title of the book.

"I had spent a lot of time and effort putting it together so it wasn't very appealing to go back to square one and I thought it was a good title.

"Then it went to the statement stage, where we each put forward our evidence, and then the final hearing was supposed to take place last Thursday.

"But just a few days before, they dropped the opposition. From then on my trademark was registered."

He said: "It was an amazing feeling. It was an unbelievable result.

"I had some kind of indication that I was heading in the right direction but I never expected to get the trademark.

"I'm a big fan of superheroes and everyone knows Marvel and DC's characters because they're brilliant.

"But there are many other new authors out there who also have good ideas and it's a shame they can't utilise that word themselves.

"I haven't got the cape but it is a good feeling to win over such a large company.

"I can't believe I have defeated the X-men, Spider-man, and Iron Man all by myself."

Marvel and DC Comics have both been contacted for a response, as has their London legal firm, Jenkins.

DC Comics refused to comment on the defeat while Marvel had not responded at the time of going to press.

Sex secrets hidden just below the surface

A CHARITY in charge of Britain's waterways are looking to reunite a bag of kinky *50 Shades of Grey*-style bondage gear back with their owner – after it was pulled out of a canal in west London.

The Canal & River Trust were left red-faced when a cleaning boat hauled in a bag containing a black leather harness and sex swing was found alongside saucy leather handcuffs and a dog-style neck lead.

While the owner has not yet come forward, the waterways charity say they are hoping that a nationwide appeal will help the expensive adult pleasure apparatus be returned to its rightful, and kinky, owner.

Handcuffs, a harness, collar and paddles were among the contents of the sack, which was hauled out of the water by the Trust's cleaning boat, as it was travelling along the Regent's Canal in Paddington, west London.

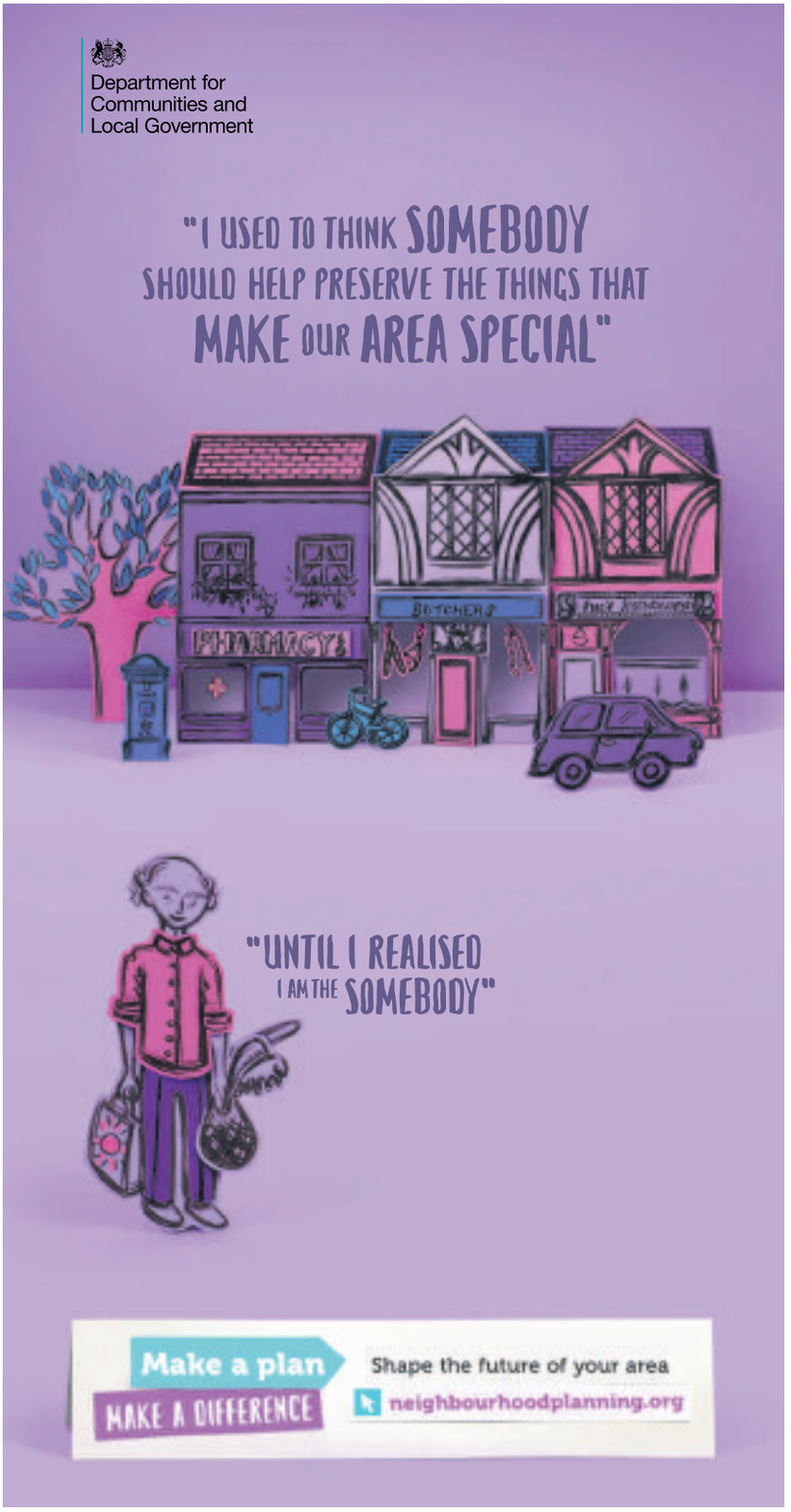
A spokesperson for the charity said: "How all this equipment ended up in the canal is anyone's guess.

"It's certainly one of the more unusual finds on the waterways.

"We're used to working with locks and paddles, but not this sort."

Over the past few years, the charity has discovered a number of unusual things that have been dumped in the water including an unexploded Second World War hand grenade, a 16ft dead python, a Volkswagen Camper Van and a pizza delivery bike complete with a soggy pizza.

Other items include a bus stop sign, seven unopened safes and a bubble machine.



Famous faces and glorious gardens

BBC weather presenter Carol Kirkwood enjoys the colours of the clematis at the Chelsea Flower Show

BY NICKY SWEETLAND
nicky@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THERE were not only beautiful blooms on display at the RHS Chelsea Flower show – a whole host of stars donned floral frocks to join the annual festivities.

The first day of the week-long event is traditionally set aside for celebrities and press to mingle amongst the blossoms before Her Majesty the Queen is invited to inspect the spectacular collection of garden displays set in the grounds of the Royal Chelsea Hospital.

The biggest attraction at this year's festival was without doubt the display of 5,000 knitted poppies, a project started by two Australian women, Lynn Berry and Margaret Knight, as a mark of respect to their fathers who had fought in the Second World War. Their idea sparked huge community interest and resulted in an installation on the forecourt of Melbourne's iconic Federation Square, with over 5,000 contributors from around the world, on Anzac Day 2015.

Acclaimed landscape designer Phillip Johnson joined the project to make what was described as "one of the most significant community art events in Australia's history". In collaboration with The 5000 Poppies Project, Johnson recreated the spectacular installation at Chelsea – featuring the woollen clusters cascading down the steps in front of the main hospital building, providing a breathtaking reminder of the hospital's sterling work with war veterans and a poignant commemoration of the centenary of the First World War. Charming Chelsea pensioner John Back was on hand to provide photo opportunities and a lone piper entertained the gathered visitors with bursts of *Scotland the Brave* and *Waltzing Matilda*.

Elsewhere amongst the floral sprays, a bevy of beauties paraded their colourful gowns and relaxed amidst some posh perennials. Jerry Hall accompanied her new husband Rupert Murdoch and enjoyed the sunshine while laughing with friends over a coffee – and Bond beauty Naomie Harris proved she was no wallflower as she meandered in the meadowlands.

Alan Titchmarsh was on hand to offer his expert advice and was joined by the *Great British Bake Off's* Mary Berry for a forage in the fauna. Berry, 81, who is a Royal Horticultural Society ambassador, is to have a pale yellow rose named after her. She belied her years as she strode out around the extensive spread. BBC newsreader Sophie Raworth looked stunning in a figure-hugging mandarin dress and *BBC Breakfast's* weather girl Carol Kirkwood enjoyed some climbers in the Great Pavilion.

London stage stars were also out in force, with Dame Judy Dench visiting leading British sculpture Simon Gudgeon's exhibit, which featured *Le Chemin de Halage a Granval*, a painting by Claude Monet, with an estimated value of £6.5 million. Imelda Staunton and her husband, *Downton Abbey's* Jim Carter, were visibly impressed by the pastel shades of the LG Smart Garden by Hay Hwang, which aims to demonstrate that technology can be incorporated harmoniously into the outdoors.

Many of the gardens took inspiration from this year's dedication of mindfulness, with some designers incorporating political messages or just wishes of wellbeing. The Modern Slavery garden, featuring several doors and an oak tree, scooped gold, with designer Juliet Sergeant hoping to raise awareness by representing what is described as a hidden crime.

Tributes were also paid by the horticultural virtuosos to the Queen's 90th birthday, with the New Covent Garden Flower Market exhibiting the monarch's profile as a pergola and an ornate arch over Bull Ring gate, festooned with the Royal livery.

The Royal party, including the Queen and Prince Philip, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice, visited the show later in the afternoon. The Rossano Charlotte, a pale pink chrysanthemum with variegated petals, named after Princess Charlotte, was shown to the Duke and Duchess, who were visiting the show as a couple for the first time.

Diarmuid Gavin's Harrods British Eccentrics garden

Author and broadcastrer Ben Fogle, right, with dance professional Brendan Cole meet the press at the Chelsea show preview

Show pictures by Richard Austin

Chelsea Pensioners welcome broadcaster Jennie Bond

150 YEARS Portobello & Golborne

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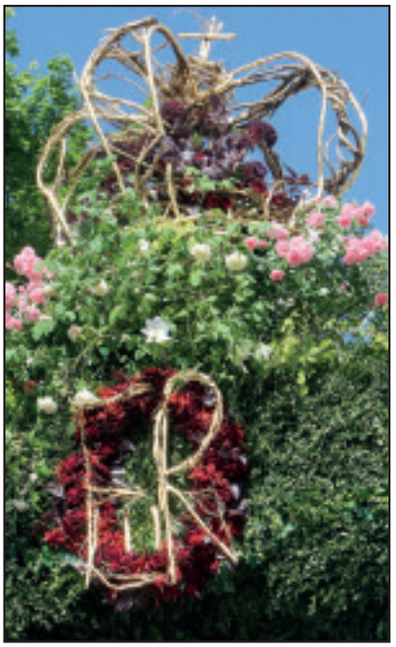
THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ensure Chelsea's another smash hit

Actress Samantha Bond in the Urban Connections garden at Chelsea, highlighting the power of green spaces to reduce loneliness

A model sports a dress made entirely from flowers and ferns

Maureen Lipman, top, and an overwhelmed visitor enjoy the gardening scene



Combinations of colour and style provide impact

Effervescent designer Diarmuid Gavin

Show pictures by Richard Austin

Chelsea Flower Show regular Sophie Raworth

A show gardener enters the spirit of the occasion

A mini Einstein on the Winton Capital Mathematics garden

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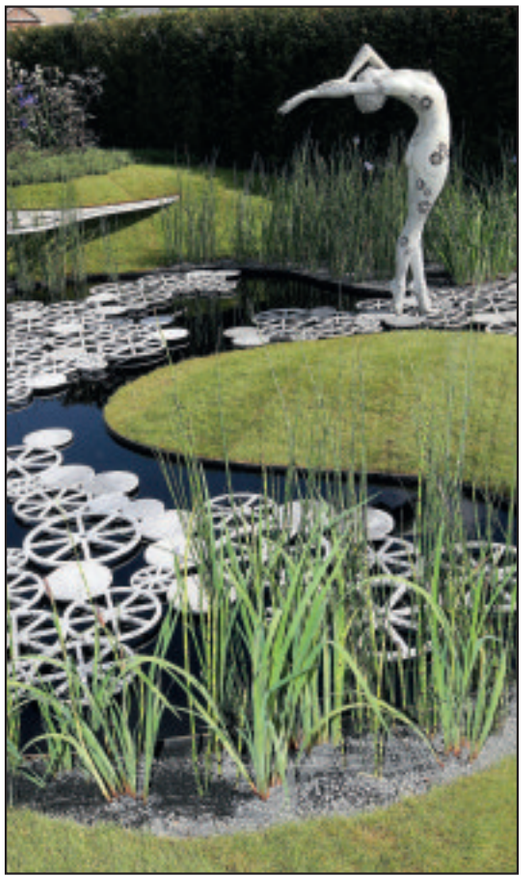


Chelsea 2016 – where natural colour and shape combines with artistic invention to create an enthralling set of results

Why showtime's such a joy at Chelsea

Show pictures by Richard Austin

Alan Titchmarsh was joined by Mary Berry at the Chelsea Flower Show, while Imelda Staunton and her husband, Downton Abbey's Jim Carter, also enjoyed the occasion with designer Hay Hwang. Also pictured is Sue Holderness who played Marlene in *Only Fools and Horses*. She was wearing an extravagant Battle of Britain-style hat to promote the RAF benevolent fund

Will Mayfair mansion buck the trend?

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE former Mayfair home of a steel tycoon and wartime MP has been put on the market for almost £15 million – despite sales plummeting in this posh part of London.

Sir Frederick Mills was a wealthy businessman when he bought the grand home in 1915, having made a fortune as chairman of the vast Ebbw Vale Steel Company.

He retired in 1929 and became a Conservative MP, serving the constituency of Leyton in east London between 1931 and 1945.

During this period the likes of David Lloyd George, Lord Beaverbrook and Winston Churchill would visit his property on Green Street, Mayfair.

The 5,500 sq/ft home was restored when it was bought by its current owners in 2006 and boasts six bedrooms, five reception rooms and access to Green Street Gardens, known to locals as Mayfair's Secret Garden.

It has 11ft high ceilings on the ground and first floor, as well as a state-of-the-art kitchen with super-pricey Gaggenau appliances and food lift serving the dining room above.

The home has now been put on the market for £14.95 million with agents Knight Frank and Wetherell, who describe it as a "magnificent townhouse mansion with an illustrious history".

However, it is an extremely difficult time to sell a home in the area, with sales down 50 per cent thanks to increased taxation, regulation and the uncertainty over Brexit.

As a result of these issues, many potential purchasers are choosing to rent rather than buy.

Stamp duty on the home is £1.7 million if it is the buyer's only property but if they have a second home they will have to pay a whopping £2.15 million.

And if they buy it through a company they will also have to pay £109,000 per year as part of the government's Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings.

But they will be getting a stunning home, according to Harvey Cyzer, partner at Knight Frank in Mayfair.

This former Mayfair home of tycoon and wartime MP Sir Frederick Mills is on the market for almost £15 million Picture: SWNS

He said: "This house has all the attributes of a best in class product.

"With very few house options available in Mayfair between £10 million – £20 million, this is the only one to have access to a south facing garden and additional roof terrace.

"With exceptional ceiling heights and neutral interior, the property has grand voluminous spaces suited to an entire spectrum of buyers."

Research from Wetherell shows around half of homes in Mayfair sell for between £2 million and £10 million, with 11 per cent selling for prices above £10 million.

The remaining 41 per cent sell for below £2 million – although there are now only a fraction of sub-million pound sales in the famous 'village'.

Peter Wetherell, chief executive of Wetherell, added: "41 Green Street is a magnificent townhouse mansion with an illustrious history.

"What makes this beautiful family home so special is that behind the traditional facade there are modern Scandinavian and yacht inspired bright and airy interiors, characterised by clean lines and understated elegance and simplicity.

"It's the perfect home for a modern family. One of the many benefits is the direct access onto the lawns and pathways of the Green Street Gardens, which is colloquially known as Mayfair's Secret Garden."

The former home of Sir Frederick Mills, who died in 1953, is one of a number of pricey pads formerly owned by prominent politicians currently for sale.

Margaret Thatcher's home on Chester Square is on the market for £30 million.

The Eaton Square home of Leo Amery, where disgruntled Tory MPs hatched a wartime plan to replace beleagured premier Neville Chamberlain with Winston Churchill as Prime Minister, is available for the princely sum of £26.5 million.

Green Street Gardens, known to locals as Mayfair's Secret Garden

Property market drops to three-year low

HOUSE sales plummeted by 45 per cent last month as changes to stamp duty and high prices battered the property market.

Figures from HMRC revealed there were 84,280 completed sales of residential properties in April – the lowest number for three years.

It followed a record-breaking March which saw buyers force through 153,000 sales following a controversial tax change. This is a monthly drop of 45 per cent and a drop of 14.5 per cent on the same time last year.

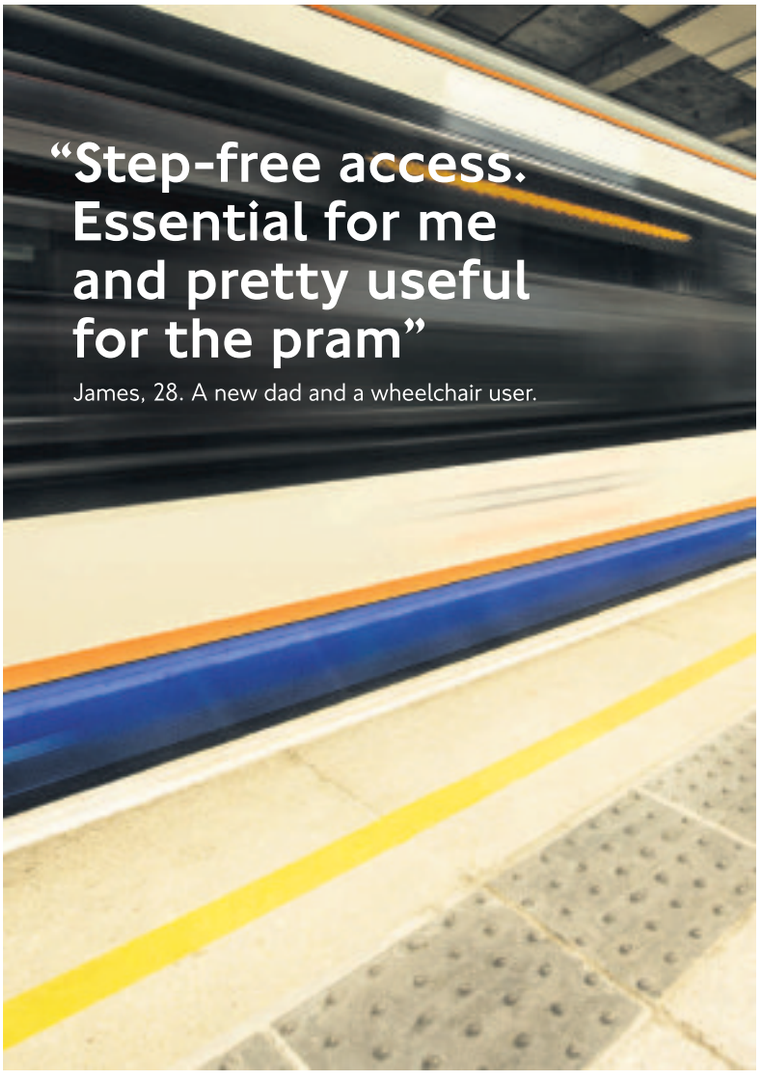
It is a result of attempts to curb the buy-to-let market, with the Government introducing an additional three per cent in stamp duty for landlords and second homeowners. An 'average' home, costing £190,000, has a stamp duty bill of £1,300, but a landlord buying that home will now pay £7,000 – a 438 per cent increase.

Second homeowners buying in London will now pay £32,720 in stamp duty for a 'typical' £535,000 home – which is twice as much as in March and a figure which can't be added to a mortgage.

One short term beneficiary of the changes was the Treasury, which recorded unprecedented stamp duty receipts of £1.2 billion in March, according to the HMRC.

The rush to beat the tax changes was reflected in figures from The Council of Mortgage Lenders, which estimated more than £26 billion was loaned in March.

This dropped 29 per cent to £18.5 billion in April. Despite the month-on-month drop, it was still the highest April since 2008 (£25.3 billion).



Accessibility updates and a number of step-free route options mean James can take his son to see his grandparents every weekend. To see his full story search TfL Accessibility and see if you could take more journeys than you think.

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MAYOR OF LONDON

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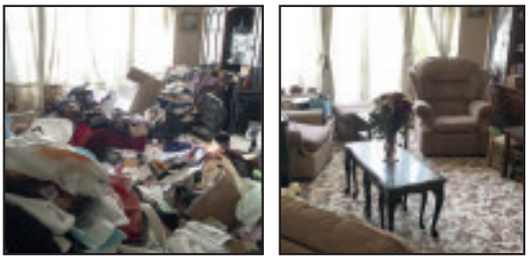
At last, a clear plan of action for the woman who couldn't help hoarding

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A FORMER university lecturer who spent 30 years hoarding thousands of books, lecture notes and exam papers has finally sought help with her obsessive behaviour.

Elizabeth Eaton, 59, roped in cleaning specialists to clear more than three skips worth of rubbish from her three-bed semi in west London after she struggled to move around her cluttered rooms. Her hoarding got so bad that her belongings had started to spill out of the letterbox of her home, making her realise she needed professional help.



Elizabeth Eaton's home... before and after the big tidy-up SWNS

Some rooms were buried up to five feet deep in clutter and her three-piece suit in the living room was completely submerged under mounds of rubbish.

She said: "At that point I realised I really needed help sorting it out. I remember my friend was helping me sort through some items as more stuff was coming through the letterbox. As soon as we were getting rid of things more was coming in. I knew I had to have professional help as it was overwhelming."

Elizabeth's home was so cluttered she struggled to move around and some rooms were so crammed she couldn't use them on a daily basis.

As well as collecting items, she also took a liking to re-homing guinea pigs – and the 11 she kept enjoyed generous-sized pens – leaving them with more room to move around than her.

But the scale of the problem finally dawned on Elizabeth when she struggled to clear out her home for a friend's visit before realising they couldn't stay because there wasn't enough space.

Elizabeth lives alone and started hoarding to cope with the death of close relatives, including her mother Joan who died in 2007, aged 83, and her aunt Vera, who died aged 94 in December, 2014.

The former lecturer, who has taught computing at universities across London, said: "It was a shock when Vera died. Although I knew she was elderly, when you have the police knocking on your door at 1.30am it comes as quite a blow.

"She was a lively character and we used to have long talks on the phone. Her death came shortly after I had stopped lecturing after 25 years."

As she struggled to throw things away, her mother's old bedroom became more and more cluttered so after a while no one could get in the room.

When Vera passed away, she couldn't bear the thought of her aunt's belongings being hurled into a skip and decided to take many of the items over to her home.

But after fearing, she would never get her home cleared, she roped in the help of experts Allyson Pritchard and Zoe Steel, who cleared three decades worth of rubbish in just ten days.

Elizabeth said: "I spoke to one person but they didn't like rodents which was a bit of a problem considering I've got guinea pigs.

"Then I remembered seeing Allyson Pritchard and Zoe Steel from TV show *The Hoarder Next Door* and I thought I'd contact them.

"I could see from the television series that they are sympathetic and helpful while also being efficient and effective."

The pair, known as the Declutter Divas, set about helping Elizabeth reclaim her home and to enjoy life once again. Less than a month later she feels like a new person and knows she made the right decision.

"I've never looked back," she said. "They've been absolutely fantastic. They don't judge you in any way, they come in and talk to you and get to know you.

"You know you can trust them, they are discreet and so kind. I couldn't have done it without them. They've helped me get my life back. I'm so much more confident and I am not embarrassed to invite people to my home which I could never have done before."

Zoe, 54, and Allyson, 56, have been supporting Elizabeth and have calmly helped her sort through what she needs, what can be donated to charity or recycled, and what she can throw out.

They will continue supporting her after the clearance and be on hand to help if she's finding things tough.

The pair have been friends for more than 30 years and confess they spend more time together than with their partners.

The Declutter Divas helped Elizabeth Eaton

They are both mothers and have had to cope with large families which meant being very well organised.

After enjoying successful careers separately they decided to join forces seven years ago and use their organisation skills for the benefit of others. Since then they have helped hundreds of people overcome their hoarding problems and lead more enjoyable lives.

Explaining the secret behind their success Zoe said: "It is about building up trust with people and I think that is why they warm to us. It is our passion. We feel it is important to have empathy and have the human touch.

"Our clients know that we will never judge them, and we will always be there to support and protect them. We work with people at a pace that suits them and in a way that makes them feel comfortable."

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS — pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS — pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle — pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE — pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE — pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

Rent reform plea to mayor

CITY Hall newcomer Sian Berry has persuaded the Mayor of London to investigate setting up lower living rents for women and students.

The Camden councillor, recently elected as a Green Party member of the London Assembly last week, led a City Hall debate on behalf of the lower income groups.

"London has the worst gender pay gap in the UK and childcare costs are 28 per cent higher than the rest of the UK," said a spokesman for Ms Berry.

"London is by far the most expensive place to be a student in the UK. In 2015-16 the average weekly student rent was £226. Applying the Mayor's general definition – that a living rent should be one third of disposable income – would imply a student living rent would be around £110 per week."

The Mayor agreed to Ms Berry's request that he consider the lower incomes of women when calculating a 'living rent' for London, and that he looks at a separate 'Student Living Rent' figure.

But at Mayor's Question Time he rejected her suggestion that the calculations for family-sized homes should consider the high costs of childcare in London.

Ms Berry said: "Most Londoners struggle with housing costs, but women earn significantly less than men on average, and often have to shoulder high childcare costs.

"I want the Mayor to make sure his living rent definition doesn't leave women in poverty. It's great that he will consider women's lower incomes, but I'm frustrated he won't look at the high costs families face which leave them with much less disposable income for rent.

"I'm glad the Mayor has agreed to look at this, and hope he works with student groups, colleges and universities to try and improve the quality and cost of housing for people studying in the capital."

Imperial's tobacco test

LONDONERS are ditching tobacco as the numbers turning to e-cigarettes has doubled within two years, a study found.

A sixth (15.5 per cent) have tried the vaping devices in 2014 – up from 8.9 per cent in 2012, higher than the European average.

Yet the French, once famed for their Gauloise, puff even more on the "new" cigarettes with over a fifth trying them but the Portuguese least likely to try them.

Only 7.5 per cent of Germans, 8.2 per cent of Italians and 8.5 per cent of Spaniards have tried e-cigs.

Their increasing popularity is mainly down to smokers trying to quit or to get around smoking bans but some non smokers have started using them leading scientists to fear they may act as a gateway to smoking.

At the same time the number of Europeans who regard e-cigs as dangerous had also nearly doubled, from 27 per cent to 51 per cent.

Scientists at Imperial College London examined e-cigarette use, which heats up a liquid containing nicotine and flavours into a vapour and attitudes to them across Europe.

'Margot' on mission to discover if a royal life is a good life

AS Margot Leadbetter in *The Good Life*, she behaved as if she was even posher than The Queen but now Dame Penelope Keith is to get the chance to see how the real upper-crust live as she fronts a new TV series that will nose around Her Majesty's royal residencies.

As part of TV's continuing celebration of Her Majesty's 90th birthday, Dame Penelope – who was also pretty posh stuff as Audrey fforbes-Hamilton in her other hugely-successful sit-com *To The Manor Born* – is to host a four-hour Channel 4 series called *Penelope Keith's Palaces and People*. Dame Penelope will tour the UK visiting The Queen's official residences and our royal institutions, meeting the people who work and live in the heart of them, keeping our traditions alive.

In a move that some might believe is a gesture by Channel 4 to make amends for *The Windsors,* its soap opera which rakes the mickey out of the Royal Family, the channel's chiefs respectfully promise "Penelope Keith will search out the palaces, people and long-lost stories that have contributed to the draw of the monarchy as a major part of our national heritage.

"Each of the four episodes covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, will see Penelope visit a royal residence or landmark and explore its surrounding areas.

Royal role for Penelope Keith

"She'll visit local events and meet the people who keep these royal traditions alive by holding ceremonial offices that go back many hundreds of years and make up the rich tapestry of Britain's history.

"We are thrilled to have secured access to these historic royal locations and to meet the people who dedicate such ardent service to maintaining many of the ancient customs that so enrich our national life."

Although Her Majesty is thought to be not entirely enamoured with Channel 4 because of *The Windsors, Palaces And People* should go some way to improve relations as Dame Penelope is one of The Queen's favourite actresses.

When *The Good Life* ended its hugely popular run of four series with a one-off special in 1978, the last show was made a Royal Command Performance, i.e. performed specifically at the request of Her Majesty, and was recorded at BBC studios in front of only The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and senior BBC management.

Security will be tight for big birthday lunch in Mall

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DESPITE claims by the BBC that The Queen has no wish to increase the level of security around the Royal Family at home, Her Majesty is set to be "over-ruled" by police and special forces when she sits down to lunch with 10,000 guests in the Mall shortly.

Security arrangements for The Patron's Lunch on Sunday June 12 are expected to be some of the tightest ever seen in the capital as The Queen hosts her 90th birthday party out in the open with representatives of more than 600 organisations of which she is patron, and their guests.

In a major security operation, all of the guests attending have been subject to a thorough background and personality vetting process which the Met has been conducting for 12 weeks.

On the day, every single person entering the gated lunch enclosure in the Mall will be body-searched by police officers as the Met institutes Heathrow-level checks to ensure that the Royal Family and the thousands of guests are safe from the risk of any terror attack.

Even plastic bottles of water have been banned from the lunch as the Met prepares to leave nothing to chance.

The security clampdown follows the recent incident when a convicted murderer was caught by Buckingham Palace security after he scaled the walls and wandered the grounds.

After the incident, BBC News reported that the police had previously requested that the walls around the palace should be made higher and that more officers are drafted in to bolster the royal protection squad.

But, the BBC reported, The Queen is said to be against upping the level of her and her family's security at her London home.

But as the Patron's Lunch will be held in Pall Mall, the event will be outside of her jurisdiction and the Met and other security forces will be running royal and public safety procedures for the big birthday bash.

In order to provide the highest possible level of protection, security agencies have insisted that organisers institute rigorous checks on everybody attending.

Since early February, when applications for tickets to the event closed, the police have been scrutinising the guest list and checking the backgrounds of everyone on it. Representatives of the charities and organisations who have been sent tickets for themselves and the guests they are allowed to bring have been told that "due to the high security in place for the event" under no circumstances can the tickets be passed to another person if they cannot make the lunch.

All guests must bring two forms of identification. One must be a passport, driving licence or, for foreign nationals, an identity card. The other must be a recent proof of their UK home address.

"Everyone will be subject to a full police search on arrival," say the organisers.

Guests will only be permitted to take in handbags or daysacks containing "essential personal items". All rucksacks will be banned from the event, along with a long list of other items.

Bottles of water are banned – because the high explosive nitroglycerin looks the same as water. All soft drinks, which could have been tampered with to contain liquid explosive, have been banned too.

Other items not allowed at the lunch include:

Audio-visual recording equipment, all cans and aerosols, computers, all drinks in any containers, drones, fireworks and flares, flags, anything made of glass, laser pens, knives, all and any picnic items, selfie sticks, suitcases, signs and umbrellas.

Security forces are on high alert for the Queen's birthday lunch

The police and palace security have also insisted that guests will not be able to take in any form of food. Those who need to bring any medications with them will also have to bring a signed doctor's note officially permitting the medication or a prescription form. However, cameras will be permitted but only if they are compacts.

Besides a large uniformed police presence, it is expected that plain clothes and armed anti-terrorist officers and special forces personnel will mingle with the guests, some disguised as guests and others as working staff.

It is also understood that marksmen from the Met's counter terrorism command SO15 will be placed on the top of buildings overlooking the Mall, constantly surveying the party and the surrounding area through high-powered binoculars and that SAS units recently moved from Hereford to a West London base at RAF Northolt will be on standby all day. In the event of a serious incident, the crack SAS teams could be on the scene in less than 10 minutes, rushed to the Mall in MH-6 'Little Bird' helicopters.

But organisers are confident that the big day will be entirely trouble-free and a fun time will be had by all.

"The invited guests will enjoy a hamper-style lunch at tables positioned along the full length of The Mall, with entertainment and Union flags a plenty. The Queen will be joined by the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family to celebrate the occasion," say the organisers.

It is believed that the other members of the Royal Family will include: the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Duke and Duchess of Wessex and Prince Harry.

"The day itself promises to deliver an electric festival-themed atmosphere that can be enjoyed not only by the lunch guests on The Mall, but also by the general public who will be able to soak up the festivities at large screens situated in the Royal Parks; Green Park and St James's Park," said the organisers.

Sea Cadets answer Queen's call to encourage active lifestyle

FOLLOWING reports that The Queen is concerned about how much time young people spend on computers and smart phones, backing for her apparent belief that the young should get out more has come from one of her own youth organisations, the Sea Cadets.

Her Majesty's views on the youth obsession with digital devices was revealed when she spoke at a Buckingham Palace garden party to 82-year-old Barbara Wilkins, who was invited to the party for her work running nursery schools.

Mrs Wilkins, from Southend-on-Sea, said they spoke about how children had changed over the years.

"I said they are all digital these days, and instead of sitting at the dining room table having conversations like I did with my children, they are sitting on the settee with their teas on their knees and watching television," said Mrs Wilkins, who added that The Queen agreed with her.

"She said she doesn't like them to be on computers all the time, they need social skills. She said she gets her grandchildren to help her out."

Now Sea Cadets, the national charity of which Her Majesty is patron, has welcomed her comments and is using them to springboard a recruitment drive in the hope of attracting more young people.

"Working with 14,000 young people we know how much they have to offer us in terms of understanding the future. In return the charity offers them a place where they can switch off from technology a couple of hours a week to realise that the world they're used to looking at through a mobile phone is right here – waiting to be discovered," said a Sea Cadets spokesman.

"Across the UK in 400 towns, Sea Cadets helps young people to find friendship, confidence and a new sense of direction. From powerboating through crashing waves to kayaking down valley rivers, Sea Cadets live life - and they live it together.

"The charity helps youngsters to realise they're capable of far more than they knew. The new skills they learn, on water and on land, help them to feel that they really matter and part of the team. Our aim is to help more young people to see the future that they want – and make that future happen.

"At a time when too many are feeling lost, confused and struggling to make their way through school and into work, we provide a safe space where they can stretch and grow and work out who they want to be on their own terms."

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

BABY Can You Drive My Car? What's the betting that Chris Evans will soon be bending Paul McCartney's ear to appear on the new-look *Top Gear*?

Macca is said to be top of the list of the superstars that Evans wants to get behind the wheel in order to turbo-charge the ratings for the return of BBC2's most-popular show and he is expected to put the challenge to the Beatle when they hook up over a pint in a few weeks' time, *writes Geoff Baker*.

Paul is to perform for one of the smallest audiences of his career when he appears as the turn for Evans' "Dine and Disco" fundraiser for Children In Need at the DJ's Mulberry Inn in Chiddingfold, Surrey, on June 25.

Evans collared Macca backstage at the BBC last year and asked him if he would be the star draw at the pub rock show, for which fewer than 100 seats are available.

Paul immediately agreed and when the 80 places were auctioned, a whopping £2 million was raised for Children In Need.

"Basically me and my band are showing up and it'll be great, it's been a long time since I've played in a pub," he said.

"My cousin once had a pub near Reading and before The Beatles got big, me and John Lennon hitch-hiked down there from Liverpool. We were having a little holiday kind of thing and we worked in the bar all week and then we played in the bar at the weekend, calling ourselves The Nerk Twins. So it will be great to play in a pub again. We are going to have a fun night; it's going to be a party, a bit of a laugh and a bit of a sing-along."

Will Evans try to put a Beatle in Top Gear driving seat?

Big Stig at New Broadcasing House – heralding the imminent arrival of the new Top Gear series hosted by Chris Evans Picture: Mark Riccioni/BBC

Top Gear insiders expect Evans to pop the question of asking another favour at the event, at which guests will dine on a five-course meal prepared by top TV chefs before Macca comes on for a two-hour show.

"Chris is a huge fan of Paul's and is very keen to try persuade him to come on *Top Gear*. It would surprise nobody in the team if he makes a pitch at The Mulberry once a few bevvies have been had," said a pal.

"Basically he could do whatever he wants if he comes on the show; drive a Mini around a track, road test a Ferrari, it wouldn't matter what because it would just be such a huge coup to have him on the show."

Macca is a bit of a car fan. Although he preferred to drive a Mini around London in the Sixties, he also had a fondness for Aston Martins and has owned a Bentley.

But – like Evans – he does suffer a bit from car sickness and prefers to be up front rather than sitting in the back being chauffeured around all the time.

The BBC's big cheeses would no doubt leap at the chance of landing a Beatle for *Top Gear*, not least as Macca is one of the few stars who would be instantly recognisable to viewers in all of the 212 territories to which the show is sold worldwide.

With a global audience of some 350 million, *Top Gear* is the BBC's biggest earner – bringing in around £50 million in overseas sales every year and, therefore, very much the show that the BBC is keen to publicise as much as possible.

BBC radio chiefs are brainstorming what to do with the flagship *Today Programme* after the loss of veteran presenter Jim Naughtie has caused a significant switch off.

New official audience figures have revealed that losing the affable, respected and informed Naughtie has cost *Today* the loss of 300,000 listeners in the first quarter of this year.

While a four per cent drop in its 6.8 million audience is not expected to cause mass panic at Broadcasting House, in these dangerous days when the BBC is being challenged at every step by a frequently-hostile Government, the fall cannot be ignored and radio bosses are expected to start asking if changes should be made at Today.

Although Naughtie was no slouch at challenging politicians and news-makers with very probing questions, his more relaxed presentation style is thought to be much missed by listeners who at times have been irritated or alarmed by the famous ferocity of the show's attack-dog-in-chief John Humphrys and his apprentices in badgering, co-hosts Justin Webb and Sarah Montague.

Regular listeners have noticed that Humphrys appears to have eased up of late on the Spanish Inquisition-style interrogation that made the brilliant newsman a household name feared by Ministers, and he has adopted more of the "matey" style that has made newcomer Nick Robinson popular with *Today's* audience.

Now BBC chiefs are in a quandary, in order to boost *Today's* figures back to the 7.1 million that they were before Naughtie left, should the show be made more aggressive – as there is no doubt that Humphrys' legendary grilling of hapless politicians makes for great radio – or should the hosts of the finest radio news show in the English language be told to back off a bit?

If the latter choice is taken, rumours are abounding that the soft but firm voice of Ritula Shah could be brought in to augment the team as the current host of Radio 4's *The World Tonight* is thought to be ideal to complement the perceptive quizzing of *Today's* intelligent charmer Mishal Hsain.

Radio chiefs are believed to be resisting suggestions from some quarters that more youthful presenters should be drafted in to try attract younger listeners, which is good news because although the BBC is relentless in its drive to appeal to the young there are justified fears that by making *Today* more adolescent-friendly it would also cause a dumbing down which would be the ruin of it.

Either way, possibilities of how to re-boot *Today* will provide much thought for BBC Director of Radio Helen Boaden, on her salary of £352,900.

Radio 4's Today show has missed James Naughtie

Jo takes the bee side and counts on our support

ROLLING Stone Ronnie Wood's ex-wife Jo is curating a Chelsea exhibition of bee-themed artworks created by Artfinder artists, in aid of Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause campaign to save British bees.

Jo's selection of 21 of these works will be on display at the My Chelsea Hotel throughout the summer – together with pieces by Jo's daughter in-law Fearne Cotton and her artist brother Paul Karslake.

As Bee Ambassador she will encourage the British public to take part in the Great British Bee Count 2016, which people can do with a free app, to raise awareness of bees and how to help them.

The Great British Bee Count runs until June 30.

Organised by Friends of the Earth, Buglife and Waitrose, the Great British Bee Count aims to build on the huge success of last year's event, when more than 100,000 bees were spotted by willing volunteers.

Jo Wood is on a mission to save Britain's bees

Jo Wood said: "Bees pollinate a huge amount of our food crops. I have children and grandchildren so I'd urge people to get involved in saving the great British bee to enable our planet and future generations to thrive."

Jonas Almgren, Artfinder's CEO, said: "Our global community of artists were really inspired by the plight of the bees, with almost 300 of them submitting bee-themed works, from countries including Australia, America, France, Germany and Spain. As an interior designer and nature lover, Jo is the perfect ambassador to carefully select the final works of art to be exhibited at My Chelsea."

Friends of the Earth CEO Craig Bennett said: "As part of our mission to save bees we need the support of the British public. Jo will encourage more people to get involved by downloading our free bee-spotting app or creating bee-friendly environments in their gardens."

My Hotels Group Director of Marketing Sundip Mace said: "The plight of the honeybee is something that we hold close to our hearts at the My Hotels Group, so we're glad we can contribute to raising awareness in the local community through our partnership with Friends of the Earth and Artfinder, and the beehive on the My Chelsea rooftop."

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

Your chance to play at the Last Night of the Proms

HAVE you ever wanted to play at the Last Night of the Proms? Well here's your chance, the BBC wants to sign you up to be part of one of the greatest gigs of the year.

BBC Music has launched its online 'virtual orchestra' and it needs players!

Amateur musicians, lapsed players and anyone over 16 who loves music is urged to log on, tune up and get playing for the chance to feature in a unique digital performance which will be part of the world famous Last Night of the Proms celebrations on Saturday, September 10.

To join in, you will need to upload a short video of yourself playing *The Toreador Song* from Bizet's opera *Carmen* to the BBC Get Playing website by Saturday, August 27.

"A whole range of instruments are welcome, and there will be arrangements on the Get Playing website for everything from piano and guitar to bagpipes," said a BBC spokesman.

"The BBC will then edit the videos into a spectacular three-minute performance, which will be shown on BBC iPlayer and Big Screens at Proms in the Park around the UK."

The BBC Get Playing virtual orchestra will be led by the celebrated conductor Marin Alsop, and features musicians from the Royal Academy of Music.

The ambassador for BBC Get Playing is comedian David Baddiel, who is a keen piano player and who will be adding his performance to the BBC Get Playing virtual orchestra.

"There is something about playing music as an amateur which is brilliant and life-enriching," said Baddiel. "This is a unique opportunity to be part of something amazing on the biggest night in the classical music calendar, and I hope that everybody will feel able to have a go and join in the fun."

Conductor Marin Alsop said: "For me, it's incredibly important to support amateur musicians because music is a way to connect, communicate, transcend barriers, transcend differences, and perhaps it's a way to promote tolerance and peace in a world that desperately needs it."

Anyone who wants help brushing up their playing or learning a new instrument can turn to Get Playing's partners Making Music, Music For All and ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music), who are arranging public practice events during the summer, free instrument lessons helpful support videos, and online tips.

Cassian Harrison, Channel Editor of BBC Four, said: "Get Playing aims to ignite and celebrate a new wave of amateur music-making across the country, uniting music lovers young and old and getting them involved in the spectacular Last Night of the Proms celebrations, one of the biggest musical events in the world."

The virtual orchestra is part of the BBC's innovative Get Playing campaign, which aims to inspire amateur music lovers everywhere throughout the summer. On TV, Get Playing includes two prime time TV shows for BBC Two and BBC Four – the UK's Best Part Time Band and a series showcasing a contest of the nation's most inspiring amateur orchestras.

For further information on how to upload to the BBC Get Playing virtual orchestra visit *bbc.co.uk/getplaying*

Picture: Chris Christodoulou

The BBC is inviting music lovers to join the Last Night of the Proms Pictures: Chris Christodoulou

Baker on secret Bowie

DANNY Baker is to open a treasure chest of unreleased David Bowie music in his new BBC4 documentary, including the late legend's stab at writing for Frank Sinatra.

Bowie's demo of his 1969 No 1 single *Space Oddity* with alternative lyrics is among the songs which are set be heard for the first time in *The People's History Of Pop*.

Danny was also given access to a version of Bowie's 1967 novelty comedy single *The Laughing Gnome* featuring, oo-er, swearing, for the show that airs in July.

He was also played Bowie's demo of Sinatra's classic *My Way*. Before Sinatra released the song in 1969, songwriters including Bowie were invited to write English lyrics for the original song *Comme D'Habitude* ('As Usual') by French songwriter Claude Francois.

Sinatra eventually chose lyrics by Paul Anka. Although Bowie's lyrics were rejected, he admitted that his 1971 hit *Life On Mars* was influenced by *My Way*.

Baker was given access to the unreleased vault of material by Bowie biographer and collector Kevin Cann. Much of it has been bootlegged and can be heard on YouTube, but BBC4 show will be its first official airing.

As well as Bowie, the show will feature Pink Floyd, Bob Marley, Marc Bolan and Northern Soul. It covers the mid-1960s to early 1970s.

The producers have previously appealed to music fans around the UK to upload details about their most precious music memorabilia to the series website at *www.bbc.co.uk/mygeneration*

Currently more 3,400 items – including photos, videos and audio of their musical treasures – have been uploaded. Episodes three and four of the series will focus on the two decades from mid 70s to mid 90s, so the programme-makers would like to hear from people around the country who have treasured mementos and bootlegs from that time.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

PATSY Kensit is to host a new BBC documentary that looks back 50 years to learn if life in London was about more than just mini-skirts and pop. Five decades after England won the World Cup, and *Time* magazine declared London the "swinging city", Patsy will examine what life was really like across the capital during this fascinating period of cultural and social change.

Patsy Kensit revisits the 1960s for the BBC

Comedy talents on stage tonight, May 31, include Kevin Eldon, above, Josie Long, right and Simon Munnery

Three's comedy company

THERE is never too far to go for a laugh in London – but the Udderbelly Festival is offering up a barrel this spring, *writes Jack Dixon*.

The three-month celebration of culture, comedy and the creative arts has been flooding the South Bank with gag-merchants from all corners of the country.

And its latest helping of humour brings together three of the UK's top leftfield comics.

As individuals they are not quite household names. Kevin Eldon, the much-admired background man, forever playing second fiddle to the likes of Simon Pegg, Stewart Lee and Chris Morris; Josie Long, the triple Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee and starlet of the circuit; and Simon Munnery, the serial innovator and hero of numerous Radio 4 series.

They have all been described by those in the know as the 'comedian's comedians'. The nearly men and women of British comedy, revered by critics but never breaking through to the mainstream.

Here they pool their collective talents as The Alternative Comedy Trio – three for the price of one and a bargain buy for avid fans.

Eldon is best known for his bit-part performances in smash comedy series *Big Train, Brass Eye* and *Steve Coogan's Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge*.

But he struck out on his own for the 2013 sketch series *It's Kevin* before landing a surprise role in the hit drama *Game of Thrones*.

Long's rise to fame has been speedier but by no means without graft. The Sidcup-born joke-slinger, who now lives in Hackney, began performing as a 14-year-old and garnered rave reviews on the circuit during the mid-2000s.

Her latest show, *Cara Josephine*, touches on the trials and tribulations of her recent relationship breakdown and the fear that her friends – now in their thirties and settling down – will leave her behind.

Munnery is perhaps the most experimental of the trio, mixing sharp, political satire with surreal comedy characters.

He hit the big time with his BBC2 series *Attention Scum!* back in 2001 but has a long and illustrious list of books, radio shows and stand-up routines to his name.

Joining forces for an evening of surreal sketches and whimsical wit, the three comic doyens will squeeze out the very best of each other's creative juices for this unique stand-up romp. It's bound to be one of the highlights of the Udderbelly's enviable comedy bill, which will showcase the likes of Andy Zaltzman, Hal Cruttenden, Milton Jones, Nina Conti and Jason Byrne over the next few weeks.

The Alternative Comedy Trio takes place at the Udderbelly Festival tonight, May 31, at 9pm. For more information about the festival and tickets visit: *www.udderbelly.co.uk*

Tickets on sale for blues date

THE 2016 line-up for the Ealing Blues Festival has been announced and tickets are now on sale.

The event takes place over the weekend of July 16 – 17 and is part of the Ealing Summer Festivals programme, organised by Ealing Council.

Performances take place across three stages over the weekend with USA based Earl Thomas, who has been described as one of the most important Blues artists of the decade, appearing on Sunday night.

Other performers include multiple British Blues Awards nominee Zoe Schwarz, dynamic Afro-Blues unit Ramon Goose and Desert Rock, stalwart of the British blues scene Paul Cox and new wave representatives such as Tom Ivey.

This year is the 30th Blues Festival, which has been run and programmed by Bob Salmons of the Ealing Club since its inception in 1987, when less than 100 people attended. In recent years the festival has welcomed as many as 10,000 music fans and serves as a summer mainstay on any blues enthusiasts' calendar.

Bob said: "I'm really excited for the 30th Ealing Blues Festival, which has grown into a unique world class event from its humble beginnings in 1987. The line-up continues to encapsulate Ealing's rich blues history and its local talent whilst providing a showcase for world class Blues performers."

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, Ealing Cabinet Member for transport, environment and leisure, said: "With big name acts as well as some brand new faces, this year's Ealing Blues Festival promises to be better than ever. As well as talented musicians there will be wonderful street food and a fantastic atmosphere, so put the date in your diary and make sure you join us to celebrate our 30th Blues Festival."

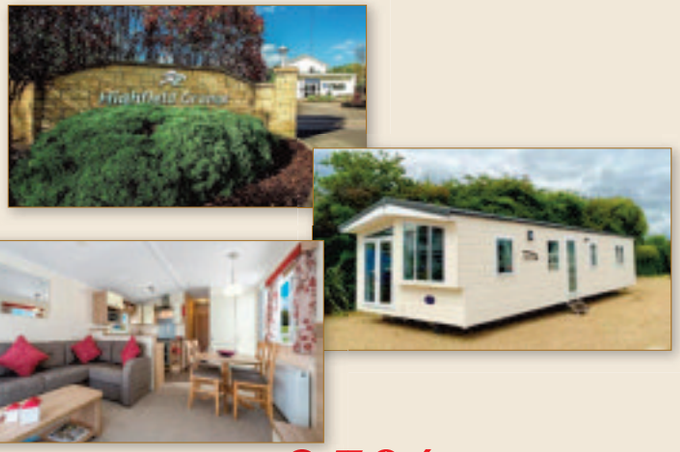
The festival annually showcases an exciting combination of established world class blues performers and local Ealing acts from a borough renowned for its musical heritage, with links to The Rolling Stones and The Who.

Advance tickets are on sale at *ealingsummerfestivals.com/events/blues-festival/* and are £5.50 per day and £10.50 per weekend plus transaction fees. Tickets on the door are £7 per day or £12 for the weekend. Re-entry is only allowed with a festival wrist band and no alcohol is to be brought into the grounds upon re-entry.

The event takes place in Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing W5 5EQ. Gates open at midday with music starting at 12.30pm on the bar stage and 2pm on the main stage.

Blues favourite Earl Thomas will play at the Ealing Blues Festival

HIGHFIELD GRANGE HOLIDAY PARK



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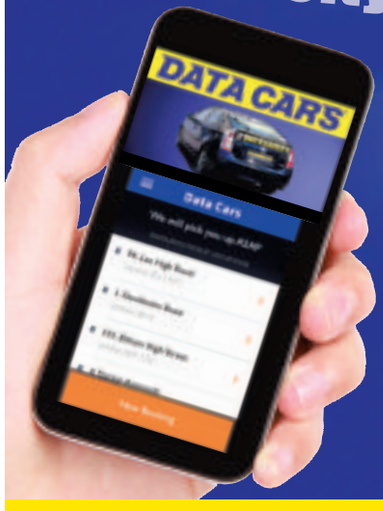

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Talk of the town

Mischief making us laugh again

The Comedy About a Bank Robbery ****

FOLLOWING almost unparalleled success in recent years, Mischief Theatre have scored another hit with their latest madcap production *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery*.

The multi award-winning company, whose *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* have earned them high praise from both critics and audience members alike, have once again found audiences' funny bones with a new formula, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Although this latest offering has the same feel as their former amdram calamities, *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* however, has nothing to do with the ill-fated *Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society* and is instead a cleverly written and wonderfully produced modern farce.

This time, we are taken to Minneapolis, a town where "everyone's a crook" and a hapless group of misfits are attempting to take advantage of the local bank's woeful security. Cue an abundance of Monty Python-style play on words and *Some Mothers Do Ave 'Em* slapstick and you get a perfectly timed loot bag of laughter. There are also obvious parallels to some of the classic Ayckbourn masterpieces, with the multi-faceted layers of confusion and mistaken identities reminiscent of classics like *Tons of Money* and *Black Comedy*.

The key to any good farce is the pace and this audacious production gallops along with gazelle like speed, making this 50s setting an affectionate pastiche rather than a dated diatribe.

With such an exceptional group of actors and the remarkable writing talents of Mischief founders Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, Mischief Theatre's ascent of the West End can only just be beginning and with another Christmas season of *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* almost assured, their monopolisation of theatreland is virtually guaranteed.

I watched the play from what was deemed a severely restricted view seat, which cost just £10. Other than one scene, which is beamed onto TV screens for those in the back, I could see the show perfectly well and would recommend these tickets as an affordable alternative.

The Comedy About a Bank Robbery is running at the Criterion Theatre. If you would like more details, visit the website *thecomedyaboutabankrobbery.com*

The Comedy About A Bank Robbery **at the Criterion Theatre features Henry Shields (Mitch Ruscitti) and Charlie Russell (Caprice Freeboys). Bottom: Jonathan Sayer, Dave Hearn, Greg Tannahill, Henry Lewis, Gareth Tempest and Jeremy Lloyd** Pictures: Darren Bell

Tales from a troubled city

THE 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London will be marked with a very special concert this September.

Robert J Sherman's new musical *Bumblescratch* will be performed as a one-night-only concert in aid of Variety the Children's Charity and will commemorate the inferno which raged throughout the East End over four days in 1666.

The new musical comedy is set in London during the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of 1666 and is told from the perspective of a demented, lascivious plague rat named Melbourne Bumblescratch, who demonstrates his unique and twisted love affair with the ancient city through telling marvellously gruesome tales.

Sebastian Croft, a rising star who is currently appearing on screen in *Game of Thrones*, will take the leading juvenile role of Perry and next month will perform extracts from *Bumblescratch* at the annual West End Live in Trafalgar Square. On September 4 he'll be amongst the celebrity guests attending the gala for the musical's West End premiere. This major concert presentation will feature a stellar line-up with star casting to be announced soon.

Bumblescratch has music, lyrics and book by Robert J Sherman, continuing the enduring legacy of his father and uncle, Robert B and Richard M. Sherman, aka The Sherman Brothers, the songwriting duo behind childhood classics including *Mary Poppins* and *The Jungle Book*. It is directed by Stewart Nicholls, who also collaborated with Robbie Sherman on the critically acclaimed *Love Birds* and *A Spoonful of Sherman*.

Robert Sherman said: "It was always our hope that we could make this evening even more special by using it to support a charity. So we're absolutely delighted that Variety, the Children's Charity, has accepted our invitation."

Opera takes us into a dark and disturbing world

4:48 Psychosis
Lyric Hammersmith ****

I MUST admit I'm no opera aficionado, far from it. I did watch *Carmen Jones* when I was a teenager and I've listened to a few of the classics, but that's as far as my knowledge extends.

Heading over to the Lyric, Hammersmith to witness a groundbreaking new production in collaboration with the Royal Opera House was, therefore a brave move for an Opera beginner, but having interviewed the director Ted Huffman just last week, I felt I needed to behold this fascinating, but harrowing presentation.

4:48 Psychosis is based on a play by Sarah Kane and illustrates the struggles of the chronically depressed and those contemplating suicide. Kane took her own life just weeks after she finished writing the work, which is widely regarded as her most influential piece. The idea of an opera as an outlet for the chronicle came as a result of Philip Venebles becoming the first Doctoral Composer in Residence in a joint programme run by The Royal Opera and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. *4:48 Psychosis* is seen as the culmination of this residency, with the poetic style of Kane's writing perfectly lending itself to an orchestral outing.

Dark, moody and at times disturbing, the story is presented by six female singers all in identical attire, who shift from character to character, ensuring there is no obvious path of consciousness for the audience to follow. Exhilarating, but chilling, the clinical set design and arias about absolute attrition combined to illustrate the desperate nature of Kane's text in an artistic and absorbing manner.

Musically there is an eerie feel, with discordant violins mixed with fairground organs and astonishingly clever conversations between percussionists while words were projected onto the stark white walls. There were times when I was out of my depth and I wasn't fully able to fathom the mixed up characters and moments of insanity, but I'm sure that was deliberate, as it depicted a hostile and confused mind. At least that's what I think it meant.

NICKY SWEETLAND

Dark, moody and at times disturbing, the story is presented by six female singers all in identical attire

Talk of the town

Lee looks for love – on stage and in life

ACTOR Lee Mead admits that playing a single dad who is looking for love in his latest onstage role is life imitating art, or the other way round, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The singer, who has recently divorced from television star Denise van Outen after a two-year separation, is currently touring the country in the smash-hit musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and playing the hapless inventor Caractacus Potts. The calamitous character, who was famously played by Dick Van Dyke in the 1968 film version, finally finds love with a confectionary manufacturer's daughter after a string of disastrous mishaps and high-flying adventures.

34-year-old Mead however, tells me he's still on the look out for his very own Truly Scrumptious: "I'm hopefully looking for love again one day. I've been single now, almost three years, but kind of happily single through choice. Being a father myself, I'm very protective of my daughter in that sense and want to make sure it's the right person."

Mead first came to the public's attention when he won the BBC talent search for Joseph, *Any Dream Will Do*, in 2007. After meeting van Outen during the programme (she was on the judging panel) the couple married in 2009 and went on to have a daughter, Betsy, now six.

Following solo album success, a host of West End leading roles and a stint on BBC1's *Casualty*, Mead has returned to the stage and says he feels this role ideally suits him.

"It's funny how certain parts come along at the right time in your life and it couldn't be a more perfect role for me at this time in my career."

The musical adaptation of Ian Flemming's classic children's novel was first staged in 2002 at the London Palladium and boasted the world's most expensive stage prop, the flying car, which cost a whopping £750,000.

The new production has been touring the UK since last year and sees director James Brining putting more emphasis back on the relationships between the characters rather than having the car as the star of the show.

Before Mead took over as the incompetent inventor from comedian Jason Manford, the devoted father took his daughter to see the production. It proved as popular with Betsy as it has with children the world over, with the six year old learning many of the lyrics and subsequently watching the film on numerous occasions. The youngster will watch her father play Potts later on the tour, something which Lee is very much looking forward to.

"I can't wait for her to see the show. It's my biggest role to date in terms of a musical and probably as iconic as Joseph. The film of Chitty is over 50 years old and I think it's something we all watched when we grew up. To be playing Caractcus Potts, the part that Dick Van Dyke created, is incredible."

Mead's onstage sweetheart is played by YouTube sensation and former *Les Miserables* alumni Carrie Hope Fletcher, who has delighted audiences with her captivating singing and enchanting persona. Lee is full of admiration for the actress, who always finds time for fans and is well known within the industry for her open and giving nature.

Lee said: "We have a great chemistry and we have a very similar styles as performers. She's got a beautiful voice as well, such a lovely tone."

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang continues to play to packed houses up and down the country, with many families visiting again and again. I ask Lee why he thinks the story has such an enduring appeal.

"The show relates to everyone because it's about family and wanting to be loved and the relationships we have with the people closest to us. Then you combine that with these wonderful songs like *Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain, Choocy Face* – all of these iconic songs – and it's a hit show."

The stage star revealed plans for a special concert next year to celebrate 10 years since winning the Joseph competition. He hopes to hire a West End theatre for the night and invite special guests to join him on stage for the anniversary extravaganza.

"I'm hoping to get a full orchestra and do songs that I've performed over the last ten years and have a nice evening."

It's likely to be a very popular event, with Lee's dedicated "Meadaholics" on hand to ensure the theatre will be filled with rapturous applause and appreciative whooping.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is touring the country and will land at the New Wimbledon Theatre in July.

The show will run from July 20 to 30.

If you would like further details, you can visit the website *atgtickets.com*

Riding high are, left to right: Aaron Gelkoff, Daisy Riddet, Lee Mead and Carrie Hope Fletcher in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
Picture: Alastair Muir

Carrie Hope Fletcher and Lee Mead in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
Picture: Alastair Muir

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SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

Talk of the town

RENOWNED West End and Broadway performer Rachel Tucker will return to the smash hit musical *Wicked* later this year and will lead the award-winning show through its 10th birthday celebrations, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The West End musical phenomenon that tells the incredible untold story of the *Witches of Oz* will also feature Suzie Mathers, who joins from the Australian production to star as Glinda the Good, and Anita Dobson, who will take the role of Madame Morrible.

Wicked fans across the country waited with bated breath ahead of the announcement and will no-doubt be snapping up the limited number of tickets to the birthday celebrations on September 27, which will mark the show's 10th year in the West End.

Tucker played the highly acclaimed role of the green witch Elphaba at the Apollo Victoria from 2010 to 2012 and is currently enjoying a celebrated run in the Broadway production. She is joined by Dobson, who is possibly best known in the UK for her role as Angie Watts in *EastEnders*, but whose numerous credits include *Chicago* (West End), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (RSC) and most recently the 2015 film adaptation of *London Road*.

Based on the international best-selling novel by Gregory Maguire that ingeniously re-imagined the stories and characters created by L Frank Baum in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Wicked* tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two sorcery students. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

The new cast members will join Oliver Saville, who continues in the role of Fiyero, and *Blue Peter's* Mark Curry, who continues as The Wizard. Original cast member Martin Ball also returns to play Doctor Dillamond and Idriss Kargbo will take the role of the munchkin, Boq. Katie Rowley Jones continues as Nessarose, Alice Fearnwill will be standby for Elphaba and Carina Gillespie continues as standby for Glinda.

Executive producer Michael McCabe said: "It is a great pleasure to welcome back from Broadway the incredible Rachel Tucker, who will star alongside Suzie Mathers, who appeared in the Australian production, as Elphaba and Glinda. Surrounding them will be many exciting new faces, including the incomparable Anita Dobson as Madame Morrible, and celebrated alumni, including the return of original cast member Martin Ball as Doctor Dillamond."

A limited number of tickets for the 10th birthday performance went on public sale on Friday.

West End and Broadway performer Rachel Tucker will return to the smash hit musical *Wicked* later this year and will lead the award winning show through its 10th birthday celebrations. Inset: Anita Dobson Pictures: Tristram Kenton

Rock lessons in progress

Rock school's 'term' begins

FOLLOWING much anticipation, it has been announced that Andrew Lloyd Webber's West End production of *School of Rock* will open at the New London Theatre on October 24 and the nationwide search is under way to find the three teams of 13 young performers who will join the cast to rock out live on stage each night.

Based on the smash hit 2003 film of the same title, *School of Rock* features music from the movie as well as new music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Glenn Slater – and a book by Julian Fellowes.

Down-on-his-luck wannabe rock star Dewey Finn poses as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school to make ends meet. When he discovers his students' musical talents, he enlists his fifth-graders to form a rock group and conquer the Battle of the Bands.

School of Rock –The Musical received its world premiere at the Winter Garden Theatre in November last year and has subsequently garnered 20 Broadway Theatre Awards nominations including four Tony nominations – Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score and Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical.

Booking is now open and if you need any further information, you can visit *schoolofrockthemusical.co.uk*

Another rude awakening for complacent society

Human Animals Royal Court ****

THE notion that at any time our world could endure a catastrophic event leading to dystopia has been widely prophesied, with Orwell's 1984 chillingly introducing the notion of Big Brother and subsequent contemporary interpretations cementing the idea of impending disaster.

Stef Smith's *Human Animals* at the Royal Court is another stark warning to a society which continues to become more and more egocentric, merely introspectively gazing into its own accomplishments and not caring about the consequences to anyone else, or anything else on the planet, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Human Animals is a clever morality tale, says Nicky Sweetland

This hugely clever morality tale, wonderfully directed by Hamish Pirie, sees a community cut off from the rest of the world following an outbreak of disease within the local wildlife population and the fear and propaganda machine used to contain it. With an intricate insight into human relationships and our innate need for reassurance perfectly portrayed, audiences are asked to take a shocking look at a very realistic set of hypotheses and to formulate their own outcome.

A clinical set design by Camilla Clarke makes for an eerie environment, with animal noises and a smattering of fluids to constantly provoke reaction and invigorate the senses. This allows the magnificent ensemble cast, made up of Natalie Drew, Ian Gelder, Stella Gonet, Lisa McGrillis, Sargon Yelda and Ashley Zhangazha the room to explore and develop their complex and yet utterly compelling everyday characters.

Frightening, thrilling and thought provoking, this play highlights society's inability to engage and the outright disinterest of the human condition.

Human Animals runs at the Royal Court until June 18. For more details visit *royalcourttheatre.com*

WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Beetroot tartare

Serves four to six

THIS is more of a salsa-type thing, I suppose, but you can use it to accompany smoked or pickled fish, cold meats and so on. Otherwise, simply spoon it on some toast as a snack.
You can mix a little crème fraîche or mayonnaise with this at the end to make it creamier, or, depending on your tastes, just leave it clean.

Ingredients

250-300g cooked beetroot (any colour)
1 medium red or white onion, peeled, halved and finely chopped
2-3tbsp capers, rinsed and chopped

Beetroot tartare

1tbsp Tewkesbury mustard or Dijon, mixed with some horseradish
1-2tbsp rapeseed oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Peel the beetroot and finely chop them, then mix all of the ingredients together and season to taste. You can add more capers or mustard if you wish.

The Arch London, home of a sumptuous royal afternoon tea
Picture: The Arch London

REVIEW Arch London

CULINARY experts at the acclaimed and exclusive Arch London have devised their own very special celebration for the Queen's 90th birthday this year and are offering lucky diners the chance to indulge in a spectacular royal afternoon tea.

This sumptuous and decadent afternoon treat offers the quintessential English favourite with some exemplary contemporary contributions to ensure your every whim is catered for, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

My companion and I took refuge from the hectic city to savour the calm and opulent surroundings and munch our way through a veritable host of heavenly vittles that were on offer.

Served in the traditional way on a bone china pedestal presentation stand, guests are lavished with delicious bite-size dishes to suit both the savoury and sweet pallet.

All are served with a glass of excellent Tattinger Brut Reserve.

The tea is worthy of a royal seal of approval, with Stilton cheese straws (snappy and strong flavoured), chicken liver parfait (smooth and succulent) with spiced fig chutney giving a wonderful mix of tastes and textures. The rare roast beef, served with watercress and crispy shallots, is to die for and the traditional egg mayo sandwiches with the crusts expertly removed are a charming addition.

The desserts, including strawberry and pistachio tart (flavoursome, fruity and filling), macaroons (crisp and fun) and Eton mess (perfectly crafted) give the ideal finish to your fanciful feast.

There is also, of course, a traditional cream tea to go with the extensive selection of loose leaf teas – which includes fruit and plain scones with cream and jam, just to make sure you know you are well and truly within the Queen's England.

Tea can be enjoyed either within the stylish Hunter 486 restaurant, the Salon de Champagne Lounge or the Martini Library and is available from 12pm-7pm. If you would like any further details, you can visit the venue's own website – *thearchlondon.com*

Belinda Donovan is an experienced chef who was trained at the prestigious La Varenne cooking school in France. She compiled the ***Hammersmith and Fulham Cook Book*** in 2013 and is a regular writer of cookery columns and reviews. An enthusiast for all things Fulham, she has also written articles about the area's rich local history. She is currently a Conservative councillor for the Addison ward and served as Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham for the year 2012-13

BELINDA DONOVAN

WHAT better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than on a historic tour of the city given by Steve, who has his own Tour Guiding Company, Trails of The City.

Steve is a qualified Westminster Tour Guide and I joined him recently on his "Players and Plotters" tour which unravels the history of playhouses and playwrights whose stories are surprisingly interwoven with those of various plotters against the Elizabethan and Jacobean thrones.

We start off at the art-nouveau Black Friar Pub opposite Blackfriars Tube. To add a touch of Elizabethan authenticity this wonderful pub is playing host to morris dancers. The story unfurls as we explore the area around the now covered River Fleet, discuss how one did well to avoid the horrors of torture and beheading during Queen Elizabeth I's reign and learn all about that tragic figure Mary Queen of Scots, whose haunting statue has pride of place on a building in Fleet Street.

Steve leads us through narrow backstreets that make one feel transported back in time and at one stage I find myself leaning against part of the ancient wall of Blackfriars Priory – site of the first ever London playhouse, and the model for most of our theatres today. Steve and myself catch up at the end to talk about late medieval food and the first documented cookery writer, one Lady Elinor Fettiplace, and her 1604 book of household management which hit the kitchen bookshelves long before Mrs Beeton. Steve tells me it was quite common for people of late medieval times to consume storks and cranes and of course blackbirds baked in a pie...

Recipe for Marchpane biscuits

- Preheat oven to 150.
- 1lb and a half of almonds ground until powdered. Why not use a Magimix? I am sure Lady Fettiplace would have if they had been invented!
- 1 lb and a half of icing sugar
- Beat the sugar and almonds together with a small amount of gum tragacanth until you get a paste. Roll it out on some icing sugar and create what ever shapes you like.

Marchpane was often cut into elaborate shapes as a centrepiece for the table. Bake until hard and then ice with icing sugar mixed with rose water and return to the oven until the icing is hardened.

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A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing.aspx or in person at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW, tel. 020 7341 5152, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the licensing authority at the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 20th June 2016.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

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YVONNE ENDROEDI
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 27L Nevern Square, Earls Court, London SW5 9PD, who died on 28/01/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 08/08/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP, One London Square, Cross Lanes, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1UN. Attn: Robyn Hack

Ref: RDH/202806/1

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(FULHAM HIGH STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility maintenance works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Fulham High Street between its junctions with Putney Bridge Approach and Gonville Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Putney Bridge Approach and Gonville Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 4th June 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 4th June 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 25th day of May 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(CONINGHAM ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Coningham Road at its junctions with Uxbridge Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Boscombe Road, Findon Road and Coningham Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 30th May 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday, 30th May 2016 and last for 5 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 12th day of May 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(BISHOPS AVENUE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the 'FOLD' festival which is being held in Fulham Palace, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the south-westernmost section of Bishop's Avenue from a point in line with Lamp Column no. 09 to its southwesternmost extent.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 21st June 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday, 21st June 2016 and last for 8 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of May 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
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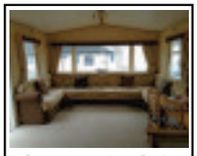

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Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
31 Chiddingstone Street London SW6 3TQ 2016/02024/FUL
Excavation of the rear and part of the front garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; excavation under the front forecourt to create a new bike store; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the front of the property; installation of planters and the formation of a new bin store at ground floor level to the front elevation.
32 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE 2016/02026/FUL
Installation of new folding doors to replace the existing windows at ground floor level and replacement of 1no existing top hung casement window with a new vertical sliding sash window at first floor level to the rear elevation; refurbishment to the front porch at ground floor level; associated internal and external alterations.
128 Sulgrave Road London W6 7PU 2016/01771/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/02054/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM surround.
77 Cloncurry Street London SW6 6DT 2016/02262/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and alterations to the side and rear fenestration of the single storey back addition.
25 - 27 Wingate Road London W6 0UR 2016/02118/FUL
Raising the shared parapet wall to front elevation of no. 25 and 27 Wingate Road; erection of a new single storey side extension to no. 27 Wingate Road including raising of party wall with no. 25 Wingate Road and associated alterations to existing covered space to the side of no. 25 Wingate Road.
115 Estcourt Road London SW6 7HB 2016/02240/VAR
Removal of conditions 14 and 15 of planning permission ref: 2015/05945/FUL granted 12th February 2016 to allow the occupiers of the new residential units to apply for street parking permit.
73 Brook Green London W6 7BE 2016/02209/FUL
Retention of the front boundary dwarf wall with black metal railings on top, pedestrian entrance gate and entrance piers, replacement of the front paving and entrance steps, and associated coping stones to the walls either side of the steps to the front door.
73 Brook Green London W6 7BE 2016/02211/FUL
Erection of a new front boundary dwarf wall with box hedge behind to replace the existing wall and railings, new pedestrian gate and entrance piers to replace the existing; retention of the front paving and entrance steps, and associated coping stones to the walls either side of the steps to the front door.
12 Tyrawley Road London SW6 4QQ 2016/02208/FUL
Excavation under the footprint of the building to form front and rear lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to garden level at the rear of the property; installation of 3no rooflights to replace the existing rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing windows in the rear roofslope; alterations to the roof of second floor rear back addition to form a flat roof.
27 Fabian Road London SW6 7TY 2016/02210/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony in the rear roofslope; installation of 3no rooflights to replace the existing rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of 2no rooflights above the main flat roof at roof level; erection of a side infill extension and the replacement of existing window with new French doors and a Juliet balcony to the rear elevation at first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of bi-folding doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.
Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG 2016/01533/FUL
Erection of a single storey building for use as storage behind the sports hall.
Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG 2016/02254/FUL
Replacement of existing single glazed doorset with new single glazed doorset together with associated fittings and fixtures facing the western elevation of the School's Digby Building.
Avondale Mansions Rostrevor Road London SW6 5AH 2016/02249/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension in connection with the creation of 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats; installation of 6no rooflights in the front roofslope.
46 Ravenscourt Road London W6 0UG 2016/02252/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; and installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope.
3 And 4 Charlotte Mews London W14 0QW 2016/02337/VAR
Variation of Condition 9 to allow the installation of a glass balustrade to the front lightwell instead of a metal grille Planning Permission 2012/01343/FUL granted 30/05/2012.
146 And 148 Iffley Road London W6 0PE 2016/02239/FUL
Erection of a three storey extension at lower ground, upper ground and first floor level to the side of the main building; erection of a part one, part three storey rear extension at lower ground, upper ground and first floor level; replacement of existing window with a new dormer window in the rear roofslope; installation of a new door to replace the existing window and the formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation; installation of a new door to replace the existing window at lower ground floor level to the side elevation; replacement of existing windows with new windows at upper ground floor level, installation of a new entrance door to replace the existing window, bricking up of existing door and replacement of existing window with a new window at lower ground floor level to the front elevation; demolition of the existing chimney stack at roof level; installation of new steps, provision of cycle storage and refuse storage at the front of the property; conversion of the existing building to provide 1 x one bedroom, 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.
46 Brackenbury Road London W6 0BB 2016/02213/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; erection of a rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing two storey back addition; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roof slope.
43 Broomhouse Lane London SW6 3DP 2016/02329/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of the basement; erection of a single storey front extension at ground floor level; installation of a new entrance door; replace the three existing windows to front elevation at ground floor level with larger aluminium windows; formation of a bin store in front garden; erection of a single storey extension to side of main building at first floor level; replacement of windows to front elevation at first floor level with double French doors; erection of railings and a privacy screen to the front elevation around the flat roof at first floor level in connection with its use as a terrace; installation of bi-folding doors to rear elevation at ground floor level to replace existing window and doors.
Land Adjacent To Jepson House Pearscroft Road London 2016/01960/FR3
Demolition of existing structures and redevelopment of the site to provide 35 affordable residential units within a 3 - 5 storey building, including the provision of cycle parking, hard and soft landscaping, access works and reprovision of electricity sub-station. (amended reference number)
Former BBC Media Centre Wood Lane London W12 7TQ 2016/02330/FUL
Erection of hoardings at the Gateway carpark site and White City One Building.
Car Parks Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane London 2016/02331/ADV
Display of graphics and text on hoardings around the Gateway Carpark site and White City One.
Flat Basement 14 Hazlitt Road London W14 0JY 2016/02160/FUL
Erection of an external staircase and new railings to front elevation from ground floor to basement level to replace existing staircase; replace of existing bay window to front elevation at basement level with a new timber sash window; installation of a new door to front elevation at basement level.
52 - 70 Fitz-George Avenue London W14 0SW 2016/02168/FUL
Creation of three self-contained residential flats (1no. one bedroom flat and 2no. two bedroom flats) at lower ground floor level; by the excavation and enlargement of the existing basement area and change of use of the existing lower ground floor storage area; excavation of part of the area outside the rear elevation to form 2no lightwells; excavation of part of the areas outside the eastern and western elevations to form 2no. new outdoor amenity spaces; installation of new windows and doors; and associated external alterations.
Brook Green Hotel 170 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7PB 2016/02292/FUL
Replacement of 3no windows with a new enlarged window at ground floor level to the side elevation fronting Shepherd's Bush Road.
64 And 66 Avonmore Road London W14 8RS 2016/02235/FUL
Erection of rear extensions at lower ground and upper ground floor level to both properties at 64 and 66 Avonmore Road; erection of new external staircase including the formation of a roof terrace to no. 66 Avonmore Road; installation of 2no windows to replace the existing dormer window in the rear roofslope of no. 64 Avonmore Road; formation of refuse storage and cycle parking at the front of both buildings; conversion of the dwellinghouses into 6 x one bedroom and 3 x three bedroom self-contained flats; associated external alterations.
76A Glenthorne Road London W6 0LR 2016/02234/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; installation of two rooflights in front roofslope.
26 Ashington Road London SW6 3QJ 2016/02169/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at first and second floor levels, on top of existing back addition and erection of opaque glass screening around the flat roof at second floor level in connection with its use as a terrace; erection of a two storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basement; in connection with the conversion of the single dwelling house into 1 x 3 bedroom and 1 x 2 bedroom self contained flats.
Kings Mall Car Park Glenthorne Road London W6 0LJ 2016/02355/FUL
Temporary change of use of Commercial Unit 02 from A1-A4/D1/D2 to a marketing suite (Sui Genris) for a period of up to two and a half years.
FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG 2016/02023/LBC
Replacement of existing single glazed doorset with new single glazed doorset together with associated fittings and fixtures facing the western elevation of the School's Digby Building.
Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG 2016/02255/LBC
Erection of a single storey building for use as storage behind the sports hall.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/02289/LBC
Display of an internally illuminated ATM surround.
32 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE 2016/01451/LBC
Installation of new folding doors to replace the existing windows at ground floor level and replacement of 1no existing top hung casement window with a new vertical sliding sash window at first floor level to the rear elevation; refurbishment to the front porch at ground floor level; internal alterations to include: replacement of existing plasterboard to dining room, installation of new stairs to replace the existing, replacement of existing flooring with new insulated concrete slabs, removal of stud walls to shower room and installation of new beam into the ceiling at ground floor level; internal alterations at first floor level to include: rebuilding of the stud walls to bathroom and re-plastering of the bedroom wall (located near the door opening of bedroom 1); associated internal and external alterations.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
32 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE 2016/02026/FUL
Installation of new folding doors to replace the existing windows at ground floor level and replacement of 1no existing top hung casement window with a new vertical sliding sash window at first floor level to the rear elevation; refurbishment to the front porch at ground floor level; associated internal and external alterations.
Olympia Multistorey Car Park Maclise Road London 2016/02054/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated ATM surround.
Flat Ground Floor 3 Shottendane Road London SW6 5TJ 2016/02207/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property; alterations to the roof of single storey back addition.
Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG 2016/01533/FUL
Erection of a single storey building for use as storage behind the sports hall.
Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG 2016/02254/FUL
Replacement of existing single glazed doorset with new single glazed doorset together with associated fittings and fixtures facing the western elevation of the School's Digby Building.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **19th June 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
Flat 1 99 Greyhound Road London W6 8NJ 2016/02253/FUL
I give notice that Mr Sam Janzir is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Erection of a single storey rear extension; alterations to the roof of single storey back addition to include the installation of a new rooflight; conversion of the ground floor level into 3 x self-contained studio flats.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **19th June 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
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If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

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Conor heads to Euros

CONOR Washington, the striker who could barely get a game for Queens Park Rangers in the second tier of English football after joining them from Peterborough United in January, is on his way to the finals of the European Championships.

Washington was on target at Windsor Park, Belfast on Friday, when Northern Ireland beat Belarus 3-0 in their final home match before the Euro 2016 finals in France.

It was the 24-year-old's second goal in successive matches for the Irish, in only his third international appearance, following his home debut strike in the March friendly win against Slovenia.

Earlier last week manager Michael O'Neill privately told the five players who were part of his original 28-man squad that they wouldn't be going to France. Those who played against Belarus were relaxed in the knowledge that, barring injuries, they would be in the final group of 23 to make the finals.

"It's incredible," Washington told www.qpr.co.uk. "To get this opportunity after coming into the squad so late is amazing.

"As a young boy you dream about pitting yourself against the best players in the world.

"I'm really looking forward to it now."

Wearing the green No.11 jersey made famous by the great George Best, Washington played a key part in setting up the first goal of the night for Norwich City's Kyle Lafferty. He held the ball up well before turning and playing a perfectly weighted pass for the overlapping Stuart Dallas to put in a low cross that caused panic in the visiting defence, before Lafferty netted from six yards.

Revelling alongside Lafferty in O'Neill's 3-5-2 formation, Washington was on the spot to punish another bad mistake in the Belarus defence in the 44th minute.

After keeper Andrei Gorbunov miscued his weak punch from another left-wing cross by Dallas, Washington out-jumped him to bravely send a downward header past a red-shirted defender on the goal-line and into the bottom right-hand corner.

CONOR Washington scoring against Belarus

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

Party scenes

Washington, who has yet to score for QPR after 15 appearances (eight as a sub), was replaced by Jamie Ward in the 61st minute – one of six Irish subs – but Rangers' No.9 wasn't worried. He had already secured his boarding pass for France before Wigan's Will Grigg sealed a 3-0 win that sparked jubilant party scenes.

Northern Ireland's biggest victory for five years was the perfect send-off for France and extended their unbeaten run to 11 matches. They play their final warm-up game against Slovakia in Trnava on Saturday.

WHILE Conor Washington was on cloud nine in Belfast, two of his QPR team-mates were suffering international friendly defeats at the weekend.

Massimo Luongo was on the losing side as Australia were beaten 2-1 by England at Sunderland's Stadium of Light on Friday evening.

Midfielder Luongo, who will miss Australia's friendlies back in Oz because of the impending birth of his first child, played 58 minutes prior to being substituted.

Winger Matt Phillips played 71 minutes of Scotland's 1-0 loss to Italy in Malta before being replaced by Steven Naismith.

CHELSEA youngsters won the prestigious Toulon U21 tournament for England on Sunday evening.

Lewis Baker scored a smart header after just nine minutes of the final against hosts France. Ruben Loftus-Cheek – who was voted player of the tournament – added a second on the stroke of half-time with a deft touch over the French goalkeeper.

On loan at Vitesse Arnheim, Baker joined fellow Blues Loftus-Cheek and Nathaniel Chalobah in the side that saw off the hosts 2-1. They withstood a late rally by France to win the title for the first time since 1994.

John Swift and Kasey Palmer made up the five Blues in Gareth Southgate's squad, who had Chelsea assistant manager Steve Holland in a similar role for the young England side.

CHELSEA Ladies got their season back on track with a hard-fought 2-1 FA Women's Super League 1 win over dour Sunderland.

Having lost the FA Cup final to Arsenal and then slipped up badly against league leaders Manchester City, Blues fought back from conceding an early goal to boost their chances of retaining the title.

A header from Katie Chapman and Fran 'Mini Messi' Kirby sent Chelsea into their month's break in good heart with the goals that secured all three points.

They will resume their chase of City – four points ahead but having played a game more – on June 29, when their opponents will be Sunderland once again.

Chelsea boss Emma Hayes said: "We're giving up the first goal in every game and that's bothering me.

"Equally, we showed great character to bounce back with two goals in quick succession. I thought there were a lot of good individual performances, most notably Karen Carney. She was excellent.

"It was a fantastic cross for the first goal and a brilliant header by Katie.

"The second goal was also full of quality – a wonderful run by Eniola Aluko and a great header by Fran Kirby.

"They were both skilful finishes and it's just disappointing we didn't add to them. The scoreline flattered Sunderland. We definitely had enough opportunities but I'd be more disappointed if we weren't creating chances."

JOIN RON HARRIS ON LEGENDS TOUR!

IF you haven't already entered our great competition to win the chance to join legendary Chelsea skipper Ron Harris on a tour of Stamford Bridge, then there is still time to do so.

Yep, you could take a Legends Tour with the man who led Blues to their first FA Cup triumph and European glory in the early 70s, as he shows you and a companion around Stamford Bridge – all thanks to our pals at Chelsea FC.

On **Father's Day, Sunday, June 19**, 'Chopper' Harris will be delivering the perfect present for Chelsea-supporting dads. In this ultimate Legends tour there will be plenty of opportunities for photographs and autographs as well as a Q&A session with Ron himself. All tour guests will receive a signed, personalised photo of Ron, as well as a guide book and use of an audio guide for the museum.

To book a place on the stadium tour costs £70 per person.

But you have a chance to win TWO tickets – yep, that's right, you and a friend or relative can join Ron and be regaled with tales of times past when he and the other heroes of SW6 – Peter Osgood, Charlie Cooke and the rest – were kings of the King's Road.

How can you win this sensational prize? All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is answer the following question correctly. But before you do, please be aware you have to be able to make it to Stamford Bridge under your own steam and be available to attend the tour on June 19 at 10.30am.

OK, with that sorted, here's the question:

Q: How many league and cup first team appearances did Ron Harris make for Chelsea?

Email your answer (no snail mail here!): to me at **cfcjourno@gmail.com**

Put 'Legends Tour with Ron Harris' in the subject line.

Closing date for entries is noon on **Tuesday, June 7, 2016.**

I will pick one correct answer out of the hat.

The winner will be contacted by email, but please add your name and a contact telephone number.

If you are not the winner, then make sure you don't miss out on this great occasion by booking your ticket direct with the club (www.chelseafc.com).

Good luck!

Paul Lagan

NO hiding place for Surrey's Gareth Batty Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Middlesex in command

COUNTY CRICKET ROUND-UP

AFTER six successive draws, Middlesex put themselves in a commanding position to finally chalk up their first County Championship win of the season after dominating the first day's play against Hampshire.

Despite losing openers Nick Gubbins and Sam Robson cheaply, the hosts demonstrated their batting strength through three centurions.

Undefeated

Dawid Malan (147) and the undefeated Adam Voges (128) steered the hosts to 342-3 by the close at Merchant Taylors' School on Sunday thanks to their 279-run third wicket partnership

Voges' first ton of the season came off 200 balls, taking the former Australia batsman beyond 13,000 first-class runs in his career.

He was next joined at the crease by John Simpson, who added exactly 100 to his side's first innings total of 467-3 declared before lunch on Monday. Voges was still there with him, having moved his score on to 160 not out.

Surely only bad weather can possibly deny Middlesex their long-awaited first CC1 victory of the season . . .

In their previous four-day game, Gubbins (109) and Robson (99) had led the way at Lord's, where Somerset salvaged a draw after Middlesex were bowled out for 423.

Spinner Ollie Rayner again impressed with the ball, taking 4-56, but after Somerset battled their way to 202-7 at tea on the last day, bad light prevented any further play.

Middlesex enjoyed better fortune in their first T20 Blast match of the season against Hampshire at Uxbridge on Friday. Put into bat, Malan struck 10 fours and five maximum hits on his way to a brilliant 93 off 48 balls – a match-winning knock that lasted until the 15th over as Middlesex finished 195-6.

Any hope the visitors had of making the game close vanished when the dangerous Shahid Afridi was run-out by James Fuller after scoring just eight.

After hopefully notching their first CC1 win of 2016, Middlesex return to Lord's this Thursday (June 2) to face Gloucestershire in the T20 Blast.

Surrey slump again

SURREY'S winless start to the County Championship season stretched to six matches after last week's heavy defeat by an innings and 69 runs against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Openers Tom Curran (53) and Arun Harinath (16) were the only Brown Caps to reach double figures amid a stunning collapse. Surrey were skittled out in their second innings for just 107 on the last of three days' play.

Having batted at number eight in the first innings, 21-year-old Curran was opening for Surrey in the absence of Rory Burns, who was unable to bat again after suffering a mild concussion when fielding at short leg. Before that misfortune, Burns had top-scored with 92 in an inadequate total of 191 all-out first time around.

Skipper Gareth Batty admitted: "We're not getting it right. There's no hiding place. I take full responsibility for it because I'm the one that leads the boys out.

"We're not where we want to be or need to be, both individually and as a team, and we will continue to work hard and get that right."

Surrey's poor start to the season has not been confined to the four-day game. After opening their T20 Blast campaign with victory at Essex, they slumped to 93 all out in their defeat by Glamorgan at the Kia Oval.

Only the Curran brothers, Sam and Tom, reached 20 as Glamorgan strolled to an eight-wicket win with 46 balls to spare.

Surrey chose to bat but their opening stand of 28 was the highest partnership of the innings, with seven wickets then falling for 32.

They were further hindered by veteran Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood, their recent match-winner at Essex, retiring hurt with a calf injury without scoring.

Surrey hope to have him fit again in time for Friday's (June 3) T20 Blast game in Sussex, which follows the conclusion of the CC1 fixture with Somerset at Taunton.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, May 31st, 2016 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Blues target French star

PAUL Pogba is inching his way into becoming a Chelsea player, while young star Ruben Loftus-Cheek is heading out of Stamford Bridge on loan.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Blues are lining up a £75million three-year deal for Juventus' French international central midfielder and hope to have the deal completed before the start of Euro 2016 in France on June 10.

Pogba, a free transfer to Juve from Manchester United in 2012, has just completed another successful season with Italy's 'Old Lady', who notched up their fifth league title in a row.

Chelsea are deep in discussions over the deal and Pogba is believed to be looking for a new challenge. Barcelona and Paris St-Germain are also keen but the west Londoners are in pole position to land the 23-year-old France superstar.

Pogba has scored 28 goals in 128 games for the Italian giants and that goal rate is just what Blues need if they are to put themselves back into a title-winning position next season.

Part of the attraction for Pogba would be a reunion with Blues' new boss Antonio Conte, who signed him from Man United.

The £75m transfer will be straightforward, financed by the exit of Nemanja Matic and Oscar, who are both up for sale.

Chelsea would prefer to sell the pair to China for £80m, twice the money they could get in Europe, but the likelihood is that one or both will end up at Juventus, thus negating the need for Chelsea to spend any money at all. If that happens, they would have the thick end of £20m to spend on other targets.

Not happy

Pogba's arrival will signal a move for Loftus-Cheek. The 20-year-old central midfielder will not be happy with Pogba's arrival. And while Matic's departure could allow the 6ft 3in England U21 star a squad slot, he won't be satisfied with that either.

■ RUBEN Loftus-Cheek could find himself out of the first team picture . . . Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

He sees the likes of Deli Alli getting a permanent first team berth at Spurs and full England call-up and fears he will go the way of Chelsea's previous great hope Josh McEachran, who failed to make the Premier League grade.

A loan to a top flight side would be the preferred option for the Lewisham-born player but Loftus-Cheek believes more minutes on the pitch, in a first team environment, are vital to his continued progress.

Conte and Chelsea's hierarchy have vowed to reshape the squad like never before during Roman Abramovich's tenure and that means an end to the often controversial Chelsea career of Diego Costa. Romelu Lukaku is keen on a return to London for what he regards as unfinished business at Chelsea.

Blues got £28m from Everton for the Belgium hit man in 2014 after he failed to hold down a first team place at Stamford Bridge following a £18m move from Anderlecht.

With PSG also expressing a keen interest, especially as their striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is leaving the Parisian club, Chelsea will have to move quickly.

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Costa should return to Spain, where Saturday's beaten Champions League finalists Atletico Madrid will be happy to see their prodigal son come home.

Jose Mourinho's appointment at Old Trafford has sparked reports linking Chelsea's Willian to Manchester United in a £60m deal. That would represent a 100 per cent mark up on the Brazilian who Chelsea nabbed from under the nose of Tottenham Hotspur in 2013.

One man definitely not leaving SW6 this summer is Eden Hazard, who endured a torrid time mentally and physically last season.

Having played with a niggling hip injury for more than half a season, the Belgium midfielder was rested for the best part of six weeks and only returned in the latter stages of the campaign. A highlight was scoring *that* goal which ended Spurs' title challenge.

With PSG and this time Real Madrid among his suitors, Hazard said: "If I tell you I'm staying at Chelsea with 100 per cent certainty, this is not the case.

"For now, I'm 100 per cent sure I'll compete at the Euros. After, I will think of Chelsea.

"But I want to finish well at the club. So, like Thibaut (Courtois), I will be at Chelsea 99 per cent next season.

"We all know my season. I will not repeat, it was bad. But now it's over and I'm focusing on the Euros.

"The last game where I gave everything was against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League. After that I was injured. And that is where the season ended for Chelsea.

"So I took my time to get back to fitness. I will attack the challenge of the European Championship in full possession of my faculties."

So it looks like one more season at Chelsea for Hazard, before a possible reunion with Mourinho at Manchester United.

Further down the striking pecking order, Burkino Faso's Bertrand Traore will use the growing interest from German side Hamburg to put pressure on Chelsea to assure him that he will get significant minutes on the pitch next season.

Last term was Traore's breakthrough season and he took full advantage of the collapse of Loic Remy's move to China to oust the want away Frenchman and claim the second striker berth behind Costa.

But a revamp of the striking options is more than likely going to see Traore slip back again.

Hamburg wanted him on loan in January and a loan deal could very well be his best option if he is to secure regular first team action next season.

Former Chelsea youth boss Brendan Rodgers, now Celtic's boss, could raid Blues' development squad and nab full-back Fankaty Dabo. Chelsea are keen to farm out the 20-year-old and Celtic would have received good reports from their London scout, ex-Chelsea player Damien Matthews.

■ Continued on page 27

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Ross still tops at Fulham

NO-ONE will be surprised that Fulham fans have overwhelmingly voted Ross McCormack their Player of the Season for the second year running.

The Scottish international forward's 21 league goals were the major factor in Whites retaining their Championship status.

In addition to finishing as the second highest scorer in the division, four behind Burnley's Andre Gray, McCormack also contributed the most goal assists – nine – for his team-mates in west London.

It was form that led to a new contract in February, a first Scotland appearance in two years and a place in the Sky Bet Championship Team of the Year.

He was also considered to be the second-best player in the division, as voted for by club managers, behind Gray.

McCormack, who also scored twice against Sheffield United in the League Cup last season, gained 72.9% of supporters' votes to finish way ahead of Tom Cairney (9.4%), with skipper Scott Parker (5.1%) third.

In two seasons at Craven Cottage since his £12million transfer from Leeds United, McCormack has scored 42 goals in 100 appearances.

■ FANS' favourite Ross McCormack

Last season, 18 of his 23 goals came from his right foot and five from his left. He scored 13 at home and 10 away. All three of his penalties were netted.

McCormack, who will be 30 in August, said: "A massive thank you to all the fans who have selected me once again. I'm delighted to pick up this award for the second time in as many seasons and this recognition via the fans' votes means a lot to me."

Those same fans will be praying that speculation linking McCormack with a move away from The Cottage this summer proves groundless. He will take some replacing.

With eight goals from midfield in his first season in SW6, the creative Tom Cairney also deserve the recognition of fans.

He topped the dribbles per match (1.2) and pass accuracy (87.6%) charts.

His best form came in February, when he netted four times in as many games, a run which earned him a Championship Player of the Month nomination, an award eventually won by Bristol City's Aden Flint.

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